# THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN

3

ART: TSUGIHARA RYUJI
STORY: HIDAKA YOSHIKI

RAIJIN GRAPHIC NOVELS

桜木健一郎

日本国初代大統領

# Message from the Author

# Hidaka Yoshiki

**PROFILE:**
Hidaka Yoshiki was born in 1935 in Aichi Prefecture. After graduating Tokyo University in 1960 with a degree in English Literature, Hidaka went on to work for the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK). As a correspondent for NHK, he spent more than twenty years in the United States interviewing many leading figures in government and business, including presidents, cabinet secretaries and members of Congress. Currently, he is a member of the Advisory Board of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government of the John F. Kennedy School at Harvard University.

# Tsugihara Ryuji

**PROFILE:**
Tsugihara Ryuji was born in 1958 in Fukuoka Prefecture. He made his debut in 1980 with *Boso Hunter* and has since produced works such as *Yoroshiku Mekka Dog* (1983-1985), *Road Runner* (1986-1987) and *The First President of Japan* (1999-2000). Today, Tsugihara's most recent work, *Restore Garage 251*, is currently being published in Weekly Comic Bunch

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA

# THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN

日本国大統領・桜木健一郎™

VOLUME 3

ART: TSUGIHARA RYUJI
STORY: HIDAKA YOSHIKI

# THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN

## Volume 3


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National Security.....129

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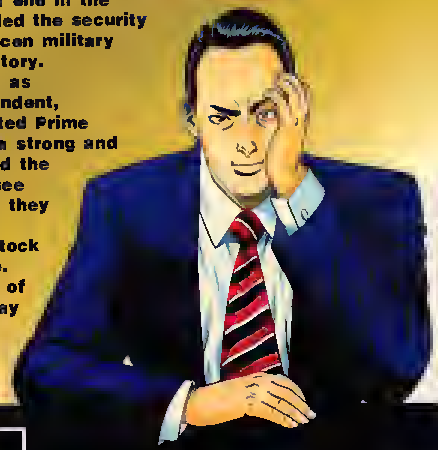
# THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN™

**The new Prime Minister of Japan must beat back the flames of war and save a failing economy. Is one strong leader enough to bring the nation back from the brink of chaos?**

Japan is at a crucial turning point in its history. Wars rage on the Korean Peninsula and in the Strait of Taiwan. Japan has canceled the security treaty with the U.S. and the American military has pulled out from Japanese territory. The changes within Japan are just as tumultuous. A strong-willed independent, Sakuragi Kenichiro, has been elected Prime Minister, pledging to make Japan a strong and independent nation. Both China and the incumbent Japanese government see Sakuragi as a threat, and together they plot to destroy him. The Japanese economy is in shambles and the stock market is on the verge of collapse. Now Sakuragi and his small cadre of dedicated followers must find a way to build a new government before conflict and chaos consume the country.



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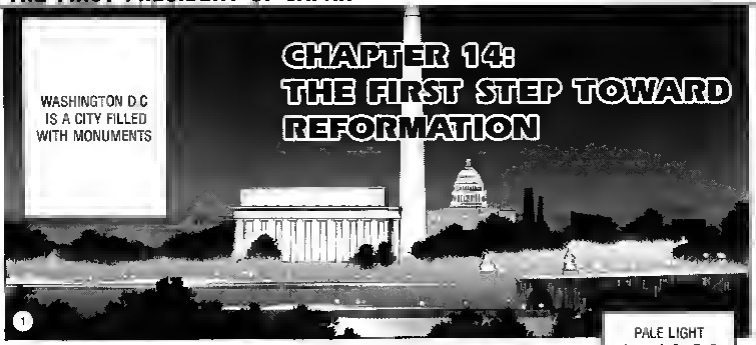
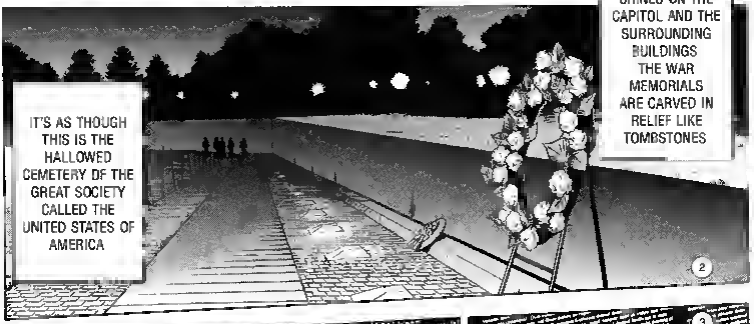
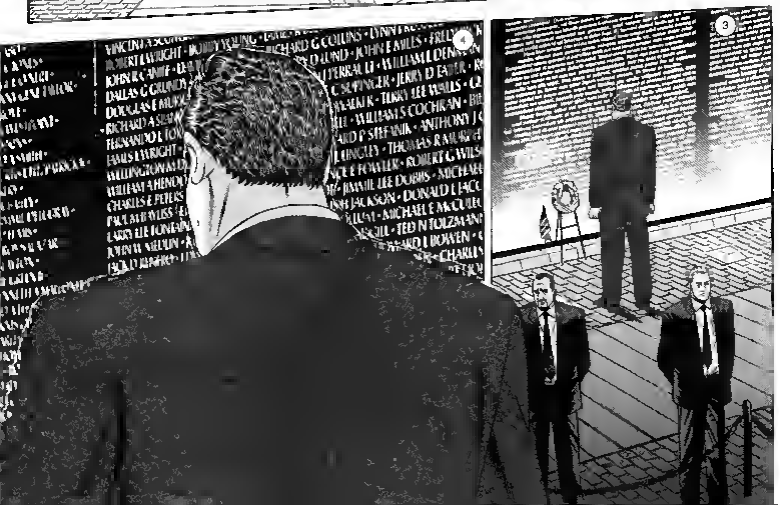

WASHINGTON D.C IS A CITY FILLED WITH MONUMENTS
CHAPTER 14: THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REFORMATION
1


IT'S AS THOUGH THIS IS THE HALLOWED CEMETERY OF THE GREAT SOCIETY CALLED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
PALE LIGHT SHINES ON THE CAPITOL AND THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS THE WAR MEMORIALS ARE CARVED IN RELIEF LIKE TOMBSTONES
2


4
3

# CHAPTER 14: THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REFORMATION

MY BROTHER...
ES E WHITEFIELD • DANIEL ACOSTA
H • CARRADINE
6
ALEX! TAKE CARE OF MOM!
7
DON'T GO!
8
IF SOMEONE'S GOTTA FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR LOVED ONES...
9
...THEN I'M PROUD TO BE THE ONE.
10

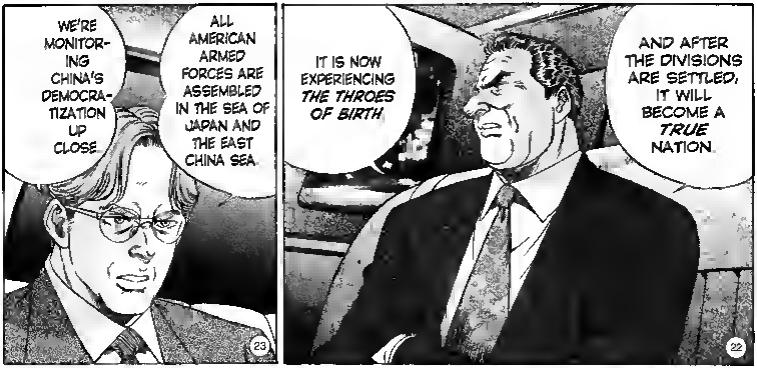
11
LIKE DAD WAS FOR ME...
...
I WANT TO BE SOMEONE YOU CAN BE PROUD OF!
12
16
YES!
14
IT'S TIME, MR PRESIDENT.
13
15

TO UNIFY SUCH A MASSIVE POPULATION, MUTUAL RESPECT AND ACCEPTANCE ARE ESSENTIAL.
HOWEVER, CHINA DOES NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE HUMAN RIGHTS, LET ALONE RESPECT THEM
20

DUE TO THESE INTERNAL DIVISIONS, CHINA IS NOT FUNCTIONING AS A STATE AT THE MOMENT
ACCORDING TO THE CIA, BECAUSE OF THE WIDENING ECONOMIC GAP BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL REGIONS, SOME REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND A SECTION OF THE MILITARY ARE DEMANDING THE RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN WONG
18
19

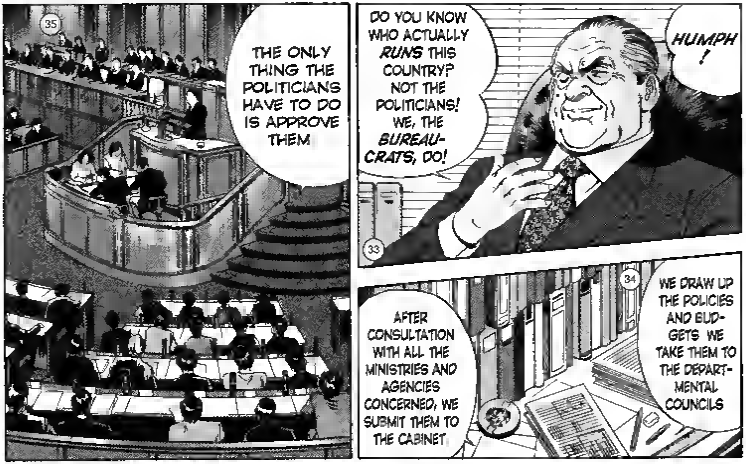
PHOTO BY KYODO

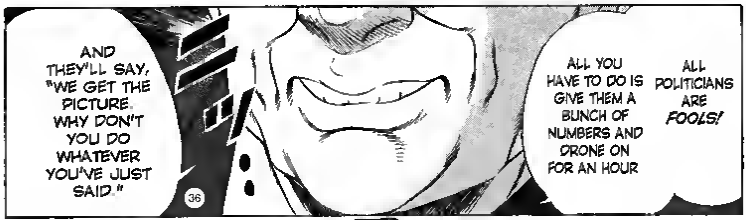
21
AND THEY WILL DEMAND TRUE DEMOCRACY.
CHINA MUST FOLLOW THE PATH OF DESTINY THAT ALL NATIONS MUST TREAD.
CHINA IS A MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY CONSISTING OF FIFTY-SIX ETHNIC GROUPS.
THESE INTERNAL DIVISIONS WILL SURELY DEVELOP INTO ISSUES OF INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY

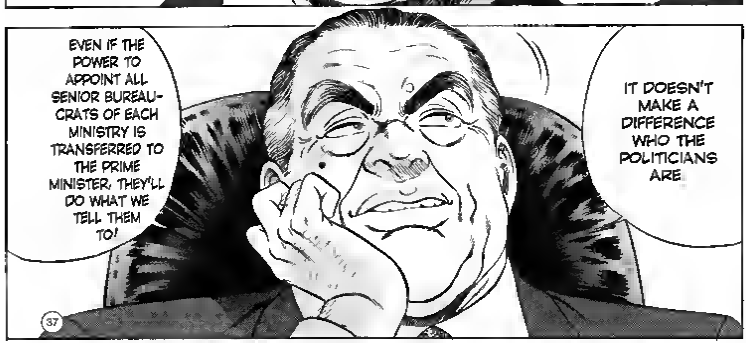

WE'RE MONITORING CHINA'S DEMOCRATIZATION UP CLOSE.
ALL AMERICAN ARMED FORCES ARE ASSEMBLED IN THE SEA OF JAPAN AND THE EAST CHINA SEA.
23
IT IS NOW EXPERIENCING *THE THROES OF BIRTH.*
AND AFTER THE DIVISIONS ARE SETTLED, IT WILL BECOME A *TRUE* NATION.
22

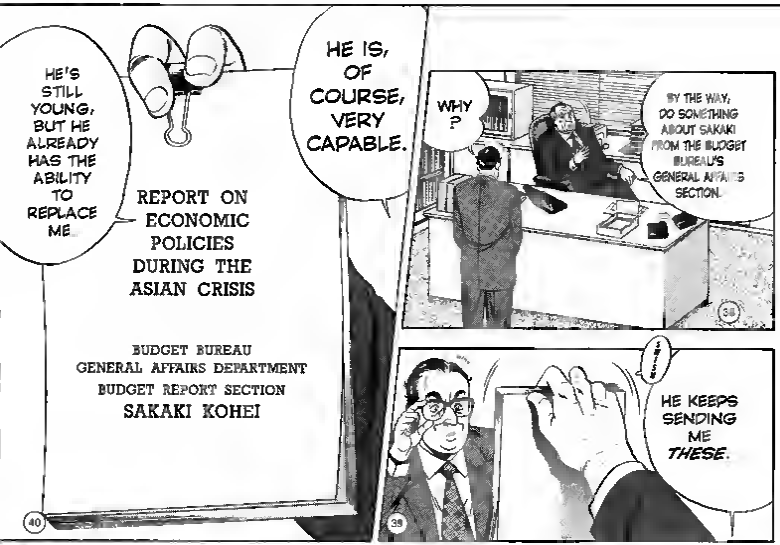
THIS IS NOT INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS! THIS IS AN OFFICIAL PROTEST BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE ASIAN CRISIS!
ISSUE A *WARNING* TO THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT THROUGH OUR AMBASSADOR IN JAPAN!
27
YES?
25
STILL...
24
WE HAVE TO TEACH HIM THE RULES THAT GOVERN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY.
I CAN WATCH CHINA WITH RELATIVE DETACHMENT, BUT I *STILL* CAN'T STOMACH THAT FOOL OHASHI!
26

TOKYO, THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
28
29
VICE MINISTER'S OFFICE
事務次官室
ONE WEEK UNTIL THE START OF THE SAKURAGI CABINET.
30
WE EXPECTED THEM TO DELAY THE CABINET SELECTION, DUE TO THE BOMBING.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE BEEN MOVING THINGS QUICKLY.
SO IT WOULD APPEAR. GOOD FOR THEM, I SUPPOSE.
31
HUH?
VICE MINISTER! HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?
VICE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, YAGAMIHA SEIJIRO
32
OR HAVE YOU ALREADY LAID THE GROUND-WORK TO KEEP YOUR POST?
ANOTHER PART OF THE CONSTITUTION WAS REVISED AT THE SAME TIME AS THE CREATION OF THE POPULAR VOTE. THE NEW PRIME MINISTER WILL NOW HAVE THE POWER TO APPOINT VICE MINISTERS, A POWER THAT THE RESPECTIVE MINISTERS HAD UP UNTIL NOW
FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, MINAI SHIRO

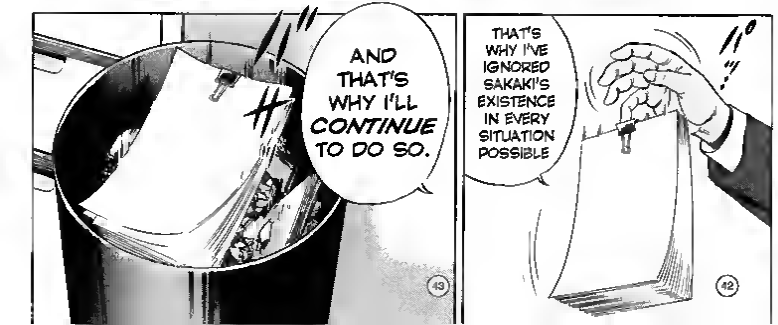

35
THE ONLY THING THE POLITICIANS HAVE TO DO IS APPROVE THEM
DO YOU KNOW WHO ACTUALLY *RUNS* THIS COUNTRY? NOT THE POLITICIANS! WE, THE *BUREAUCRATS*, DO!
*HUMPH!*
33
34
AFTER CONSULTATION WITH ALL THE MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES CONCERNED, WE SUBMIT THEM TO THE CABINET
WE DRAW UP THE POLICIES AND BUDGETS WE TAKE THEM TO THE DEPARTMENTAL COUNCILS


AND THEY'LL SAY, "WE GET THE PICTURE. WHY DON'T YOU DO WHATEVER YOU'VE JUST SAID."
36
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GIVE THEM A BUNCH OF NUMBERS AND DRONE ON FOR AN HOUR
ALL POLITICIANS ARE *FOOLS!*


EVEN IF THE POWER TO APPOINT ALL SENIOR BUREAUCRATS OF EACH MINISTRY IS TRANSFERRED TO THE PRIME MINISTER, THEY'LL DO WHAT WE TELL THEM TO!
37
IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHO THE POLITICIANS ARE


HE'S STILL YOUNG, BUT HE ALREADY HAS THE ABILITY TO REPLACE ME.
HE IS, OF COURSE, VERY CAPABLE.
REPORT ON ECONOMIC POLICIES DURING THE ASIAN CRISIS
BUDGET BUREAU
GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
BUDGET REPORT SECTION
SAKAKI KOHEI
40
WHY ?
BY THE WAY, DO SOMETHING ABOUT SAKAKI FROM THE BUDGET BUREAU'S GENERAL AFFAIRS SECTION.
38
HE KEEPS SENDING ME THESE.
39

41
SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL END UP LEAVING THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE!
THOSE WHO DISTURB THIS ORDER WILL ONLY MANAGE TO BECOME ASSISTANT SECTION CHIEF AT BEST!
WE CANNOT ALLOW THIS KIND OF "BOAT-ROCKING" TO HAPPEN IN OUR BUREAU-CRATIC SOCIETY


AND THAT'S WHY I'LL CONTINUE TO DO SO.
43
THAT'S WHY I'VE IGNORED SAKAKI'S EXISTENCE IN EVERY SITUATION POSSIBLE
42

44
SAKURAGI
POLICY PLANNING
OFFICE
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
WHUMP!
CLICK
BZZZZ
FAME

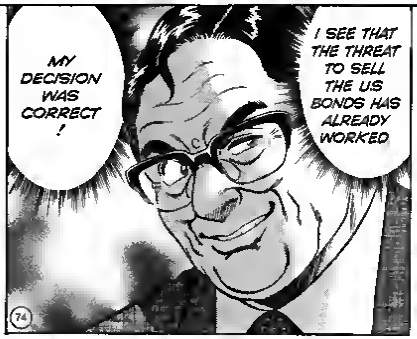
52
BUZZZZ
HUH ?
EXCUSE ME, SIR?
ARE YOU GOING TO EMBARRASS A LADY ?
WINK
53
UH...?
54
UH OH
57
UH.. YES, I CAME UP THE STAIRS. I'M TRYING TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT
HUF
ARE YOU OK? YOU'RE SWEATING LIKE CRAZY
56
SORRY I'M LATE... I'M SAKAKI
SAKAKI KOHEI
55

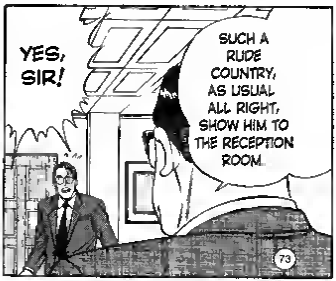
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU TALK TO HIM!
59
MR. SAKURAGI? UH... IF HE'D LIKE A BRIEFING, THE VICE MINISTER WILL COME TO...
THANKS FOR COMING. SAKURAGI WANTS TO SEE YOU.
58
UH... YES, SIR.
HUH?
60
WHAT..!?
63
SAKURAGI! IT'S MR SAKAKI.
62
CREAK
61

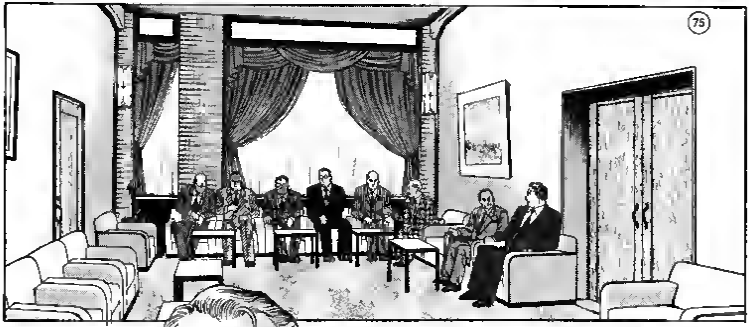
64
I'M ALMOST FINISHED READING THESE.
SORRY, CAN YOU WAIT TEN MORE MINUTES?

65
FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, YOUR SUPERVI-SORS HAVE SHELVED
66
... YOUR RATHER CONSTRUC-TIVE REPORTS!

67
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
69
FOR DECADES THIS CHAIR HAS BEEN FOR THOSE WHO REACHED THE SUMMIT OF THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY.
SOON, THAT DAMN INDEPEN-DENT, SAKURAGI, WILL SIT HERE
68
I SWEAR I'LL TAKE IT BACK!
BUT ONLY TEM-PORARILY!
70
APPAR-ENTLY, HE'S ALREADY ON HIS WAY!
THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, MR. HANCOCK, WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU IMMEDIATELY
72
WHAT IS IT!?
MR. PRIME MINISTER!
71


MY DECISION WAS CORRECT !
I SEE THAT THE THREAT TO SELL THE US BONDS HAS ALREADY WORK'ED
74


YES, SIR!
SUCH A RUDE COUNTRY, AS USUAL ALL RIGHT, SHOW HIM TO THE RECEPTION ROOM.
73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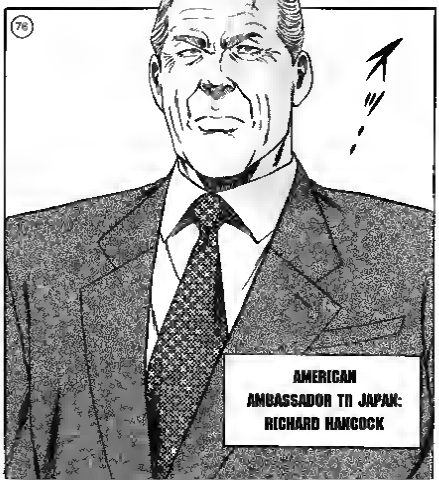
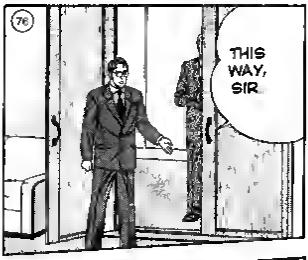
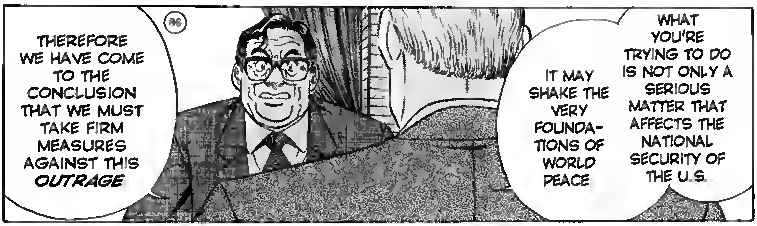

76
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN: RICHARD HANCOCK


76
THIS WAY, SIR.

77

80
...uuu
79
THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE, MR HANCOCK
?
82
81
...
YOU TOLD THE YOUNG MEN ENTERING THE MINISTRY...
MR OHASHI! I HEARD THAT BACK WHEN YOU WERE THE MINISTER OF FINANCE...
93
..."WE MUST AVOID WAR AT ALL COSTS. NEVER ADOPT A POLICY THAT WILL LEAD TO WAR"
85
WHAT ?
IT IS PRECISELY THE ROAD TO WAR!
HOWEVER, DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO NOW?
84


WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS NOT ONLY A SERIOUS MATTER THAT AFFECTS THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE U.S.
IT MAY SHAKE THE VERY FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD PEACE
86
THEREFORE WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE MUST TAKE FIRM MEASURES AGAINST THIS OUTRAGE

IF JAPAN IS TO SELL U.S. GOVERNMENT BONDS ...
F... FREEZE ALL ASSETS!
Y... YOU CAN'T!
88
ARE YOU JOKING? IF YOU DO THAT, JAPAN WILL BE FINANCIALLY CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD!
91
I'D REGRET MY IGNORANCE IF I WERE YOU
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY IS ABOUT
90
... WE WILL IMMEDIATELY FREEZE ALL JAPANESE ASSETS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!
97

92
TH.. THIS IS ABSURD! HOW CAN A MERE AMBASSADOR BE THE MESSENGER OF A WARNING WITH SUCH IMPACT ON THE EXISTENCE OF OUR COUNTRY?
THIS IS WHAT YOU CALL DIPLOMACY ?
OR DO YOU STILL THINK OF JAPAN AS YOUR COLONY !?
93
MR. PRIME MINISTER! CALL PRESIDENT CARRADINE!
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME.
94
"THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHALL CEASE ALL LEVEL OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OHASHI CABINET"
95
WHAT ?
96
"FROM HEREON THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA SHALL WAIT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEXT PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN.
AND ALL NEGOTIATIONS— DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC— WILL BE WITH MR. SAKURAGI KENICHIRO."
THIS IS THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO BE ISSUED SHORTLY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

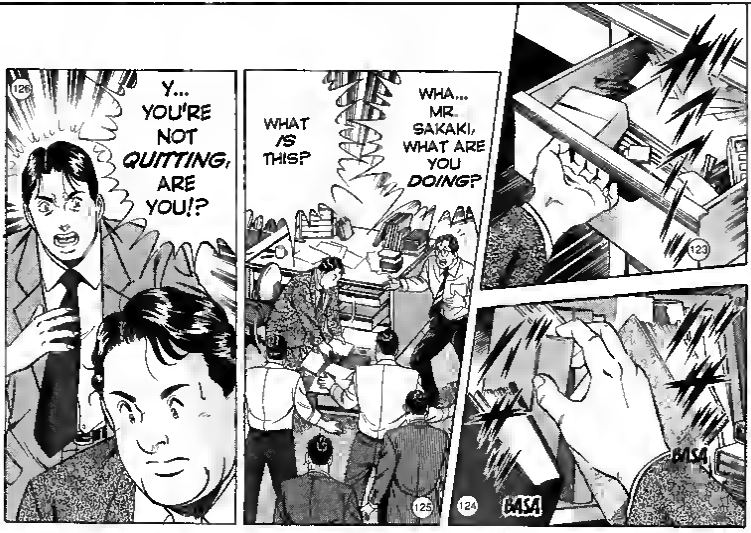
97
98
100
99
101
SAKURAGI
AGAIN!
102
HOW DARE YOU.. I'M STILL THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN!!
105
GRRCH
104
NOW IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME...
103

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY... WE'VE RUN JAPAN FOR DECADES !!
THE U.S. IS NOT THE ONLY PARTNER JAPAN HAS!
106
WHAT ?
LACK OF INFORMATION CAN BE FATAL DURING TIMES LIKE THIS
108
107
110
WHAT ...!?
109
THE RUSSIAN ARMY IS ASSEMBLING AT THE BORDERS.
YOU WILL NEVER HEAR FROM CHAIRMAN WONG AGAIN!
THERE ARE STORIES THAT A SECTION OF THE CHINESE ARMY HAS ALREADY STARTED A REVOLT IN INLAND CHINA.

112
...CAN'T .. BE HAPPENING ..
THIS..
111
113
MR. PRIME MINISTER ...
114
115

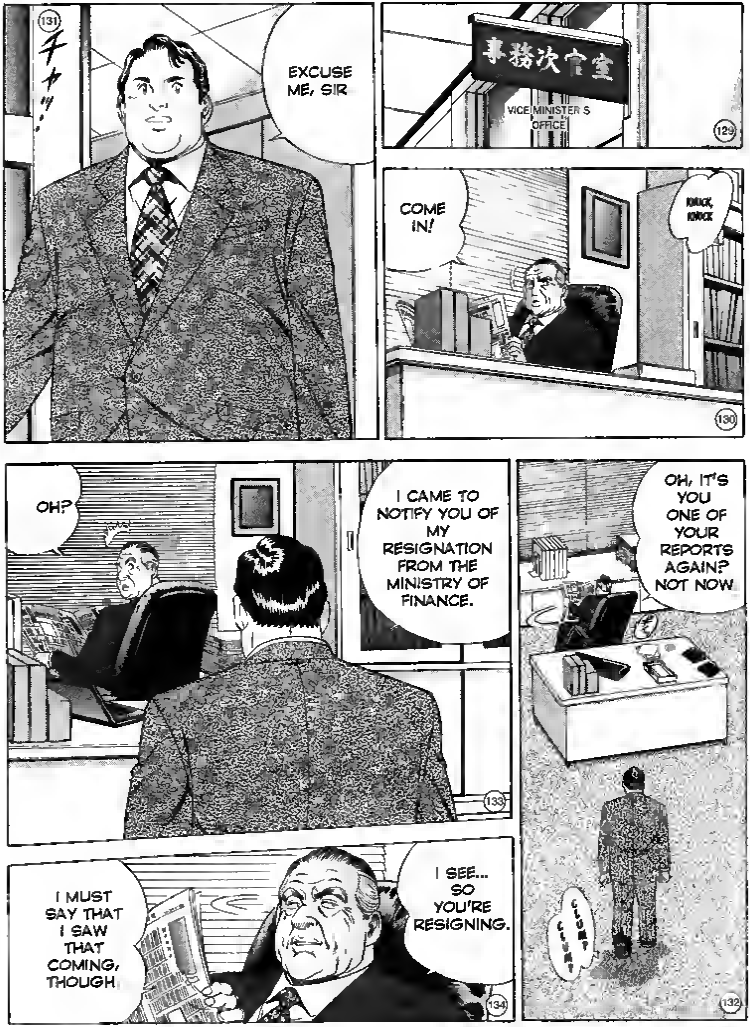
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
大蔵省
DATA AND STATISTICS BUREAU
HEY, MR. SAKAKI
HUH?

MR. SAKAKI?
A...ARE YOU OK? YOU LOOK PALE


126
Y... YOU'RE NOT QUITTING, ARE YOU!?
WHAT IS THIS?
WHA... MR. SAKAKI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
125
123
BASA
124
BASA

IF YOU QUIT, WE...NO, JAPAN WILL BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
OUR SUPERIORS ARE NOTHING BUT BUREAUCRATIC ROBOTS. THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT THEIR PROMOTIONS AND PRIVILEGES!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ACTUALLY MANAGING EVERYTHING HERE!
127

126

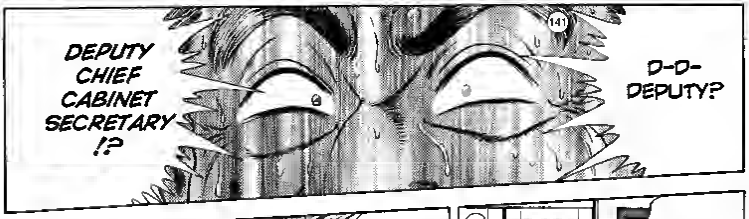

131
チャッ!
EXCUSE ME, SIR
事務次官室
VICE MINISTER'S OFFICE
129
COME IN!
KNOCK, KNOCK
130
OH?
I CAME TO NOTIFY YOU OF MY RESIGNATION FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE.
133
OH, IT'S YOU ONE OF YOUR REPORTS AGAIN? NOT NOW.
CLUMP CLUMP
132
I MUST SAY THAT I SAW THAT COMING, THOUGH.
I SEE... SO YOU'RE RESIGNING.
134

LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE. THE *BUREAUCRATS* USE THE POLITICIANS. WHY BE ON THE SIDE THAT GETS MANIPULATED?
SO WHAT NOW? YOU'RE NOT TRYING TO BECOME A POLITICIAN, ARE YOU?
135

136
UH... NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
I, SAKAKI KOHEI, WILL RESIGN FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE...
...TO JOIN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

139
WHAT!?
AND YOU... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO THERE!?
AN UNOFFICIAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING MY STATUS FROM MR. SAKURAGI.
AS THE NATION IS UNDER AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, I HAVE JUST RECEIVED..
138
BESIDES, WHAT KIND OF ABSURD PERSONNEL DECISION IS THAT?
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE? THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF THIS
137

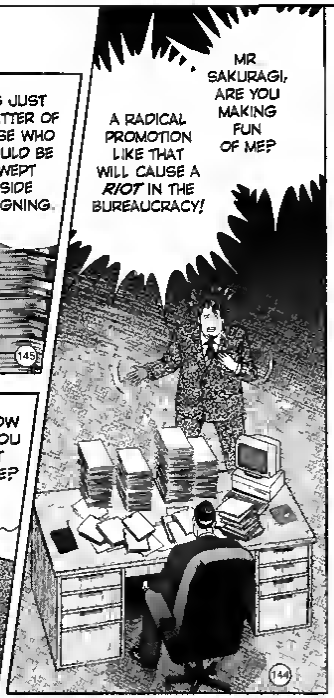
DEPUTY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY !
140


141
D-D-DEPUTY?
DEPUTY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY !?

I THOUGHT SO TOO, AT FIRST.
BUT MR. SAKURAGI IS SERIOUS.
143

142
YOU'RE JOKING !!

THESE REPORTS PROVE THAT YOU ARE THE MOST QUALIFIED PERSON FOR THE POST.
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF THOSE WHO SHOULD BE SWEPT ASIDE RESIGNING.
145


MR SAKURAGI, ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME?
A RADICAL PROMOTION LIKE THAT WILL CAUSE A *RIOT* IN THE BUREAUCRACY!
144

YOUR COLLEAGUES WHO WERE UNABLE TO IGNORE YOUR ABILITIES HAVE BEEN PICKING THEM OUT OF THE TRASH AND STORING THEM.
147

146
H, HOW DID YOU GET THESE?

149
WHAT?
...BUT A DRAGON CAN NEVER HIDE ITSELF!
YOUR SUPERVISORS FEARED YOUR TALENT AND TRIED TO SHUT YOU DOWN...
148

I KNOW THAT YOU'VE HAD OFFERS FROM SEVERAL MULTINATIONAL BANKS FOR ASTONISHING AMOUNTS OF MONEY.
150
AND I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU'VE CONTINUED TO DECLINE THEM ALL.
151
ERR ...
I WON'T ASK YOU WHY...
... BUT I BELIEVE IN YOUR ASPIRATION.
152
MY CABINET WILL BE A FIGHTING CABINET !!
I'LL NEED BUREAU-CRATS WHO REALLY CARE TO SUPPORT IT!
153

157
I... I UNDERSTAND. I, SAKAKI KOHEI...
...WILL DO MY BEST TO LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS!
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO WORK WITH ME AS A PUBLIC SERVANT FOR THIS COUNTRY.
154
156
155

AS YOU CAN SEE ON THIS NEW PERSONNEL STRUCTURE CHART, THE VICE MINISTERS AND CHIEFS OF ALL MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES...
THAT WILL BE YOUR FIRST JOB.
THANK YOU. NOW I WANT YOU TO ASSEMBLE THE VICE MINISTERS AND CHIEFS OF ALL MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES IMMEDIATELY
158

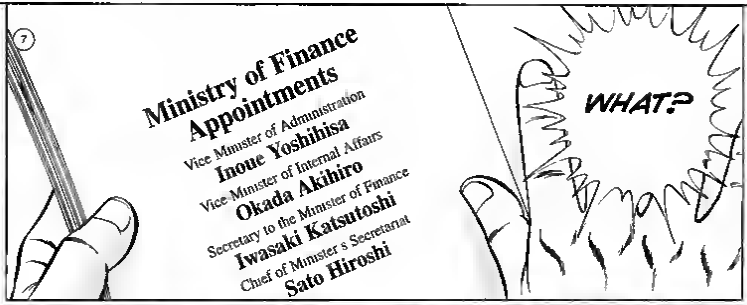
159
..WILL BE UNDER YOUR SUPERVISION !!
160
THAT'S ABSURD..
161
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING. I HAVE TO GO NOW.
162
W... WAIT A MINUTE !
WHAT'S.. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME!?
163
MAY I ASSUME THAT THIS IS THE FIRST QUESTION FOR ME, ISSUED BY THE VICE MINISTER OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY?
164
S.. SAKAKI, YOU LITTLE...!!!

I'LL NOTIFY YOU OF THE NEW PERSONNEL STRUCTURE BEFORE THE INAUGURATION OF THE CABINET.
I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISCHARGE AND APPOINTMENT OF ALL VICE MINISTERS.
165
169
I'LL DO IT... I'LL CREATE A REAL BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE!
168
166
167
I'LL LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR A NEW JAPAN!

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木晴一郎
TM

CHAPTER 15: THE INAUGURATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER
MAY 20TH
TWO DAYS BEFORE THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY
1
THIS IS THE WAY I SEE IT, AS THE MAN IN CHARGE OF BUREAUCRATIC APPOINTMENTS
SAKAKI, PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.
3
二〇××年
中央省庁幹部職員人事
榊木健一郎
PERSONNEL REORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES
2
5
4

CHAPTER 15: THE
INAUGURATION OF
THE PRIME MINISTER


7
Ministry of Finance
Appointments
Vice Minister of Administration
Inoue Yoshihisa
Vice Minister of Internal Affairs
Okada Akihiro
Secretary to the Minister of Finance
Iwasaki Katsutoshi
Chief of Minister's Secretariat
Sato Hiroshi
WHAT?

YOU DIDN'T RETAIN ONE SINGLE PERSON WHO IS CURRENTLY ABOVE THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL . NOT ONE!
ALL VICE MINISTERS ARE ONLY IN THEIR LATE 30'S OR EARLY 40'S .AND THE MAJORITY OF THE APPOINTED ARE ORDINARY CITIZENS.
M...MR. SAKURAGI, WHAT IS THIS?

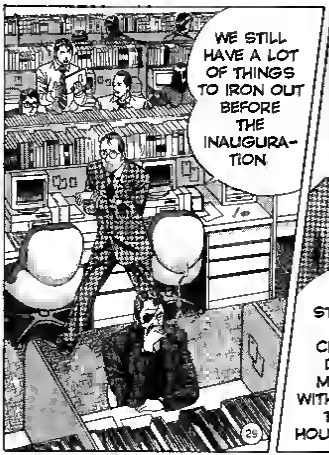
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA AS WELL, AS I RECALL.
THE CHANGE OF THE OLD GUARD WILL START WITH THE WORLD OF BUREAU-CRATS!
16

B-BUT IF NOT ONE OF THE OLD LEADERS FROM THE PRESENT OFFICE IS RETAINED...
...THERE WILL BE A CONSIDER-ABLE REPRISAL!
11
WHAT REPRISAL?
12
ERR...
13
WELL, MANY OF THE BUREAU-CRATIC LEADERS ARE VERY EARNEST AND HIGHLY RESPECTED
MAYBE IT'S GOING TOO FAR TO CHANGE EVERYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF ELIMINATING A FEW ROTTEN APPLES
Minister's Secretariat
Iwashi Kashitoshi
Deputy to the Minister of Finance
Yoshihisa Akihiro
Director of Administration
Tsuneo Yoshikawa
Director of Internal Affairs
Masada Akihiro
Director of Finance
Kazuhiro Kamiyama
14
! ALSO DOUBT THAT THE BUREAUCRATIC ORGANIZATION WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A RADICAL PERSONNEL REFORM!
CHANGE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE OLD GUARD IS NOT REFORM!
AND WE CERTAINLY CAN'T LET SMALL MATTERS BLIND US TO THE BIGGER PICTURE!
15
16

19
EVEN A MAN LIKE YOU FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO GET RID OF THE BUREAUCRAT IN YOU, HUH?
18
17
MR. SAKURAGI... ARE YOU ASKING ME TO BECOME THE DEVIL?
I WANT TO MAKE THAT CLEAR!
20
OTHER-WISE, TRUE GOVERNMENT REFORM IS IMPOSSI-BLE!
WE MUST REVAMP THE PRESENT BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM WHERE PETTY POLITICS AND SELF-INTEREST MEAN EVERYTHING
... BUT THIS IS A REVOLUTION!
THIS MAY NOT SOUND LIKE MUCH IN WORDS
THE POLICIES OF MY CABINET WILL REPRESENT THE BEGINNING OF A TRUE DEMOCRACY
21

REVOLUTION IS ONE WAY TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE.
BUT IT COMES WITH A *HEAVY PRICE*.
22
SOME OF THE CASUALTIES
...MAY BE THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT MOST.
23
24
YOU WERE A BUREAUCRAT UNTIL TODAY.
I KNOW YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT. I KNOW YOU'LL SUFFER
THOUGH YOUR RATIONAL MIND MAY ACCEPT IT, YOUR FEELINGS MAY NOT.
25
IF YOU'RE GOING TO WEEP, THEN WEEP HERE.
26
I'LL BE HERE WITH YOU UNTIL YOUR TEARS RUN DRY.
27

30


WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO IRON OUT BEFORE THE INAUGURA-TION.
29
WHAT'S TAKING SAKURAGI SO LONG?
HE STARTED THAT CLOSED DOOR MEETING WITH SAKAKI THREE HOURS AGO.
28

IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG NIGHT.
31

THIS CABINET WILL EXPERIENCE THE THROES OF BIRTH MANY TIMES
JAPAN'S NOT USED TO CHANGES.
WHAT ?
32

IT'S GOING TO BE A ROUGH RIDE.
34

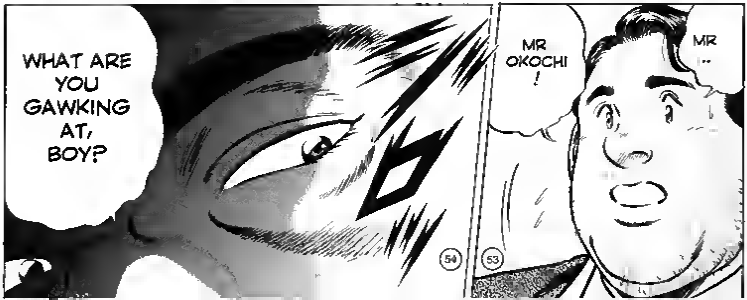
THERE'S NOTHING AS PAINFUL AS CHANGE.
SAKAKI IS GOING THROUGH THOSE PAINS RIGHT NOW.
33

38
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN RESENTFUL ...I WISHED THIS ORGANIZATION WOULD COLLAPSE.
35
WH... WHY?
36
SO WHY... WHY CAN'T I STOP THESE TEARS?
37
40
THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE
THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND PAIN ARE UNFIT TO LEAD OTHERS!
39

41
MAY 21ST
EARLY
MORNING
42
43
CLACK
HUH?
44
!
45

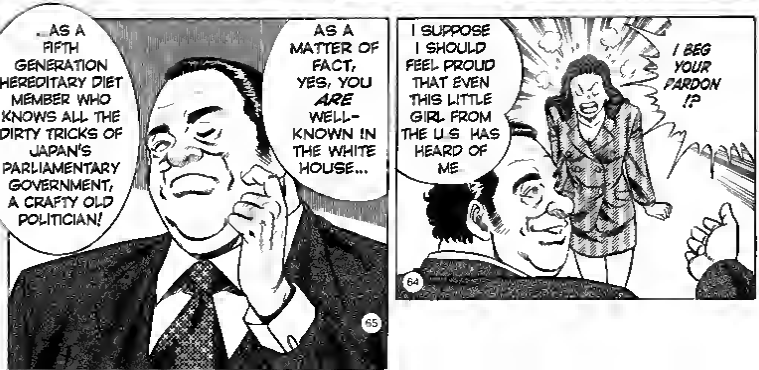
47
YES, SIR!
I'LL BE ON MY WAY, MR SAKURAGI
OK. I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
46
48
HUH ?
51
50
49

52
DEMOCRATIC UNITY PARTY CHAIRMAN-
OHIICHI SHIGEMICHI
(45 YEARS OLD)

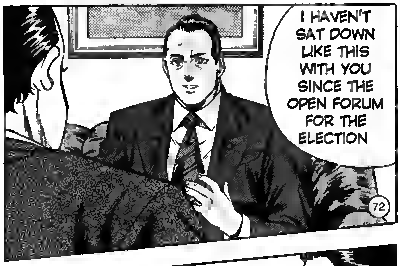

WHAT ARE YOU GAWKING AT, BOY?
MR OKOCHI !
MR ...
54
53

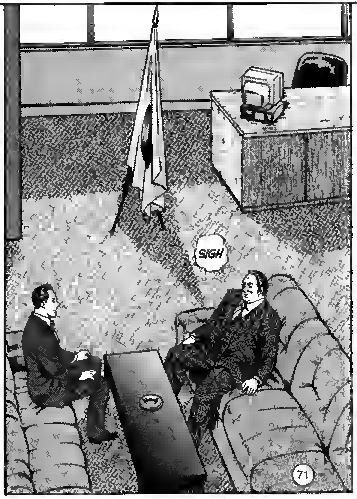
56
ALL RIGHT!
GEEEE
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY, YOU WILL ADDRESS THE NATION AT THE DIET BUILDING.
THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE AT 8 AM.
55
THAT'S RIGHT!
57
THE BIRTH OF A NEW JAPAN!
59
M...MR OKOCHI !?
SAKURAGI! WHERE'S SAKURAGI?
58

BESIDES, WHAT BRINGS THE BAD GUY OF JAPANESE POLITICS HERE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
IT'S RUDE TO ENTER WITHOUT KNOCKING FIRST!
61
HUH?
60
YOU DO SEEM LIKE A HANDFUL. NO WONDER YOUR FATHER SHIPPED YOU AWAY!
WELL, WELL... SO THIS IS THE SHREW I HEARD ABOUT.
53
H... HEY, AMY!!
62

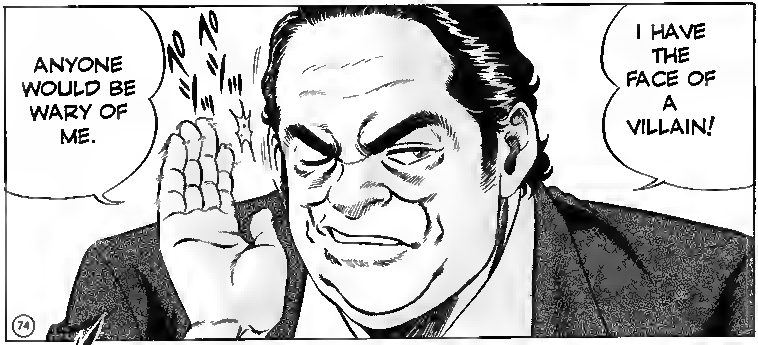

...AS A FIFTH GENERATION HEREDITARY DIET MEMBER WHO KNOWS ALL THE DIRTY TRICKS OF JAPAN'S PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT, A CRAFTY OLD POLITICIAN!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, YES, YOU ARE WELL-KNOWN IN THE WHITE HOUSE...
65
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD FEEL PROUD THAT EVEN THIS LITTLE GIRL FROM THE U.S. HAS HEARD OF ME.
I BEG YOUR PARDON !?
64

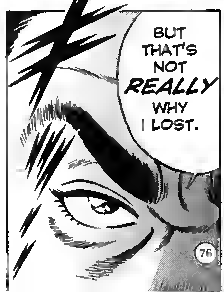
67
PLEASE EXCUSE HER BEHAVIOR.
HUMPH! YOU CAN'T BE A POLITICIAN IF YOU'RE SCARED OF A BAD REPUTATION!
66
THAT'S ENOUGH, AMY!!
B... BUT...
68
GET RID OF EVERYONE, WILL YOU?
70
69
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. ALONE!


I HAVEN'T SAT DOWN LIKE THIS WITH YOU SINCE THE OPEN FORUM FOR THE ELECTION
72


SIGH
71

AH, LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THE ELECTION.
73
I KNEW I'D LOST THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO RUN.

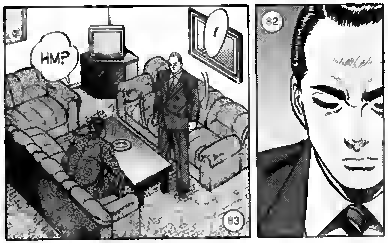

I HAVE THE FACE OF A VILLAIN!
ANYONE WOULD BE WARY OF ME.
74

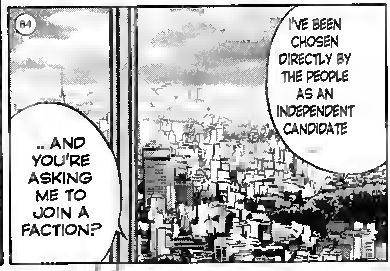

BUT THAT'S NOT *REALLY* WHY I LOST.
76

75
NOW *YOU*, YOU HAVE THAT CLEAN-CUT LOOK.
AND YOU'RE A PRETTY BOY, TOO
THE GOD'S ARE UNFAIR, AREN'T THEY?

THE REAL REASON IS BECAUSE YOU AND I...
77
..HAVE THE SAME POLITICAL PRINCIPLES.
EXCEPT THERE WERE THINGS I COULDN'T SAY BECAUSE IT WOULD OFFEND MEMBERS OF MY PARTY.
78
79
THAT'S THE ONLY DIFFERENCE!
BUT BEING AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM
80
81
WE BASICALLY HAVE THE SAME IDEAS!
THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO TEAM UP WITH YOU!

85
MY POLITICS ARE ABOUT REVOLUTION.
I HAVE NO INTENTIONS OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN A POWER STRUGGLE


HM?
83
82

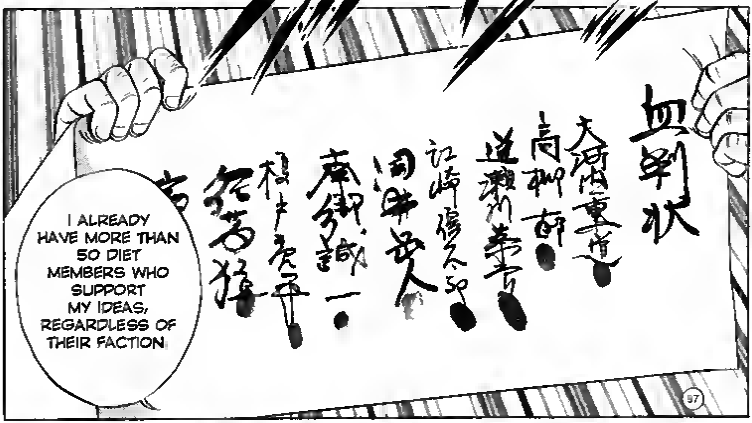

84
.. AND YOU'RE ASKING ME TO JOIN A FACTION?
I'VE BEEN CHOSEN DIRECTLY BY THE PEOPLE AS AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

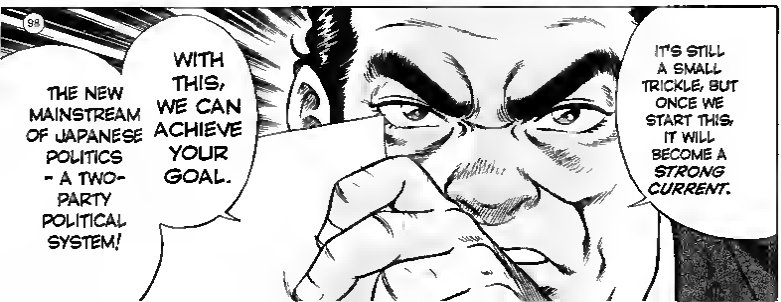
87
88
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, SAKURAGI !?

86
IF YOU'RE THINKING YOU CAN WIN THE NEXT ELECTION IF YOU'RE WITH ME, BACK OFF

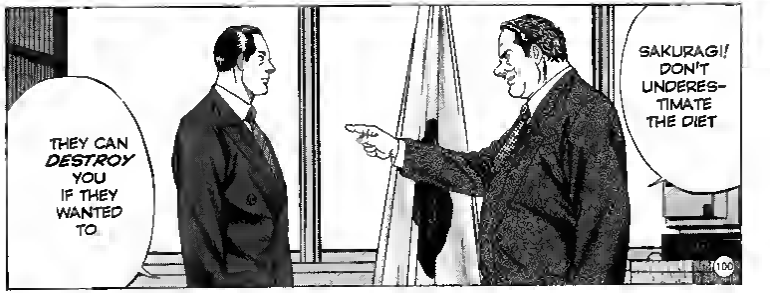
91
BUT FOR NOW, YOU AND I HAVE GOT TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THIS COUNTRY!
89
BUT DON'T THINK I'M INFERIOR TO YOU AS A POLITICIAN
YEAH, I DID LOSE THE ELECTION.
90
WHEN YOUR TERM ENDS IN FOUR YEARS, I PLAN TO RUN AGAIN.
93
WHO'S GONNA PROTECT JAPAN AT THIS TIME OF CRISIS BUT THE POLITICIANS !?
KA
WAA
CHINA HAS ALREADY FIRED THEIR FIRST WARNING SHOT!
NOT ONLY THAT, THERE'S A WAR GOING ON NEXT DOOR
JAPAN DOESN'T HAVE A SECURITY TREATY ANY MORE
TOKYO!!
WHAT!?
92

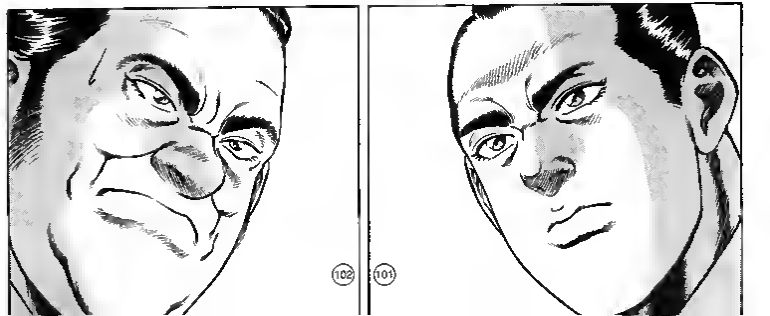
I'M TELLING YOU! YOU CAN'T DO IT BY YOURSELF.
YOU NEED HELP!
94
HELP !?
95
YOU NEED SOMEONE TO GET SUPPORTERS WITHIN THE DIET.
96
THAT SOMEONE IS ME.


I ALREADY HAVE MORE THAN 50 DIET MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT MY IDEAS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR FACTION
97


98
THE NEW MAINSTREAM OF JAPANESE POLITICS - A TWO-PARTY POLITICAL SYSTEM!
WITH THIS, WE CAN ACHIEVE YOUR GOAL.
IT'S STILL A SMALL TRICKLE, BUT ONCE WE START THIS, IT WILL BECOME A STRONG CURRENT.

99
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS GET OUT THERE AND KICK ASS!
I'LL PULL THE STRINGS IN THE DIET FOR YOU.
IN THE GENERAL ELECTION FOLLOWING THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WE'LL FIGHT AS A POLITICAL GROUP IN FAVOR OF YOU

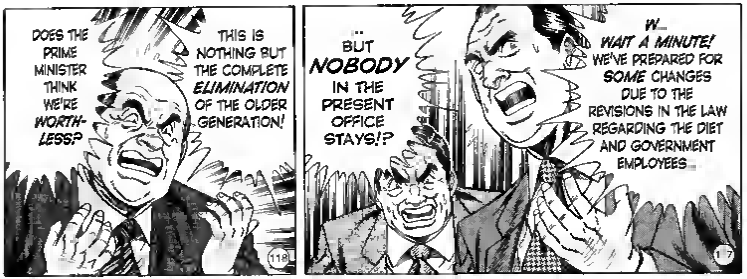

THEY CAN DESTROY YOU IF THEY WANTED TO.
SAKURAGI! DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE DIET
100

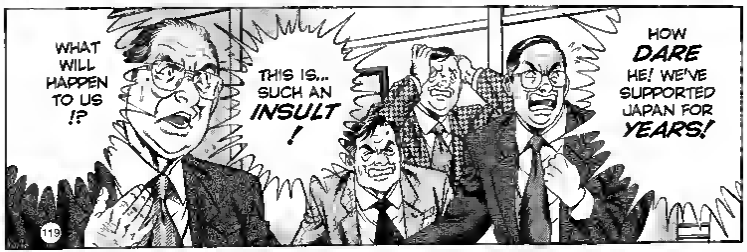

102
101

BUT WE'VE GOT TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES!
IT WON'T BE AS EASY AS WE THINK.
104
HUH ?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE MORE DETERMINED THAN I HAD IMAGINED
105
105
AND WE WILL!
106

106
107
MAY 22
INAUGURATION DAY
...WHERE THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY BEGAN AT 8 O'CLOCK THIS MORNING
I'M STANDING IN FRONT OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE...
108
THEY AWAIT THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN SELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE!
MEDIA FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE ASSEMBLED AROUND THE PALACE
110

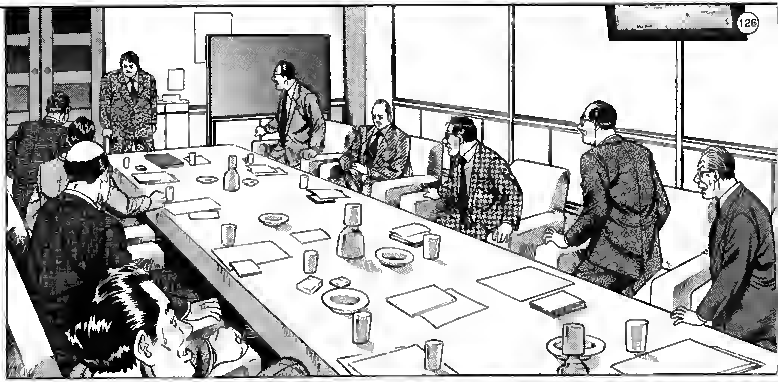
FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER, OKADA AKIHIRO
7TH MEETING ROOM
第七会議室
112
THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
NEXT... VICE MINISTER OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY, INOUE YOSHIHISA.
113
SECRETARY, IWASAKI KATSUTOSHI.
111
114
DIRECTOR OF GENERAL AFFAIRS, OGAWA KANTO.
THE MINISTER'S CHIEF SECRETARY, SATO HIROSHI.
DIRECTOR GENERAL, KURO HIROAKI.
116
THAT CONCLUDES THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW LEADERS OF EACH MINISTRY AND AGENCY!
115


DOES THE PRIME MINISTER THINK WE'RE WORTH-LESS?
THIS IS NOTHING BUT THE COMPLETE ELIMINATION OF THE OLDER GENERATION!
118
...BUT NOBODY IN THE PRESENT OFFICE STAYS!?
W... WAIT A MINUTE! WE'VE PREPARED FOR SOME CHANGES DUE TO THE REVISIONS IN THE LAW REGARDING THE DIET AND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES...
117


WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US !?
THIS IS... SUCH AN INSULT !
HOW DARE HE! WE'VE SUPPORTED JAPAN FOR YEARS!
119

120
YOU ARE ALL RELIEVED OF YOUR POSTS !
I WILL NEED YOUR LETTERS OF RESIGNATION BY THE END OF TODAY.

S... SAKAKI... YOU BASTARD !!
WH... WHAT !!??
121
122
123
HOW DOES IT FEEL, TO FIRE ALL OF US AND MAKE US LOSE FACE?
YOU MUST FEEL REAL GOOD ABOUT THIS, HUH, SAKAKI?
GRRR !
124
125
JAPAN HAS NO TIME TO WASTE NOW!
WE MUST ELIMINATE ALL INFLUENCES OF THE FORMER SYSTEM!


126

127

132

131
THAT'S AN AWFULLY BIG CROSS TO BEAR, SAKAKI!!
WE'LL NEVER FORGET THIS AS LONG AS WE LIVE!

I'M LEAVING!
THIS IS REVOLTING!
128

130
TRAITOR ...
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A SELL OUT?
129

I CAN'T LET THIS GET TO ME, WHEN THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO DO.
THIS IS NOTHING.
133
132
134
WELL DONE, MR. SAKAKI!
136

136
WE WISH YOU GOOD LUCK!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT... OUR PAIN IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE AGONY YOU MUST BE GOING THROUGH
WE CONSIDER OURSELVES AS PUBLIC SERVANTS, JUST LIKE YOU!
137
139
TH... THANKS, SIR!
THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
総理府
142
140
I'M STANDING IN FRONT OF THE ASSEMBLY HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
THE INAUGURATION SPEECH OF OUR NEW PRIME MINISTER IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
141

WILL HE BECOME THE SAVIOR OF JAPAN ?
143

THE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING HIS EVERY MOVE!
144

HERE IS MR SAKURAGI NOW!
145

148
OSAKA
SAPPORO
MY BELOVED PEOPLE OF JAPAN!
AS THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE, I CALL THIS DAY A HISTORIC DAY!
147


OKINAWA
FROM NOW ON JAPANESE POLITICS IS ENTRUSTED TO YOU, THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION.
NOR WILL IT BE EXPLOITED BY THOSE WITH POWER.
OTHER NATIONS WILL NO LONGER INTERFERE IN OUR DOMESTIC POLITICS.
149

WH... WHAT !?
A SIMULTA-NEOUS ELECTION !?
151

150
TODAY, BASED ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION, I DECLARE THE DISSOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HOUSE OF COUNCILORS.
AND CALL FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS ELECTION FOR BOTH HOUSES

152
WHAT REMAINS IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLID DIET.
THIS IS WHY I HAVE ALREADY RELIEVED THE LEADERS OF ALL MINISTRIES AND AGENCIES OF THEIR POSTS.
THE VERY EXISTENCE OF OUR NATION IS AT STAKE. WE NEED THE SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY TO RESPOND TO THIS CRISIS!

ALL JAPANESE CITIZENS!! I URGE YOU TO VOTE AND BE HEARD!
THIS IS HISTORY IN THE MAKING!
I MUST ASK YOU CITIZENS TO CONSIDER THIS AN IMPORTANT AND URGENT MATTER.
THE VOTING DATE FOR THIS ELECTION SHALL TAKE PLACE SEVEN DAYS AFTER THIS OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.
153
154

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE
FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木健一郎
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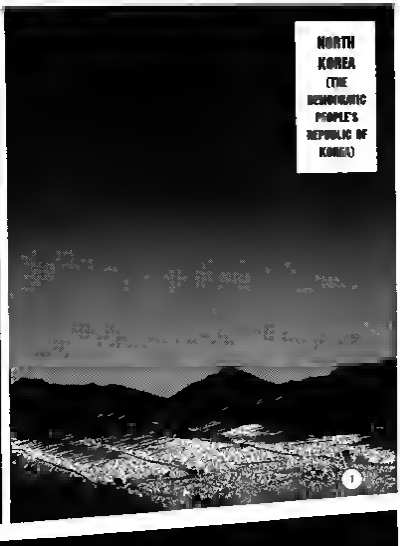
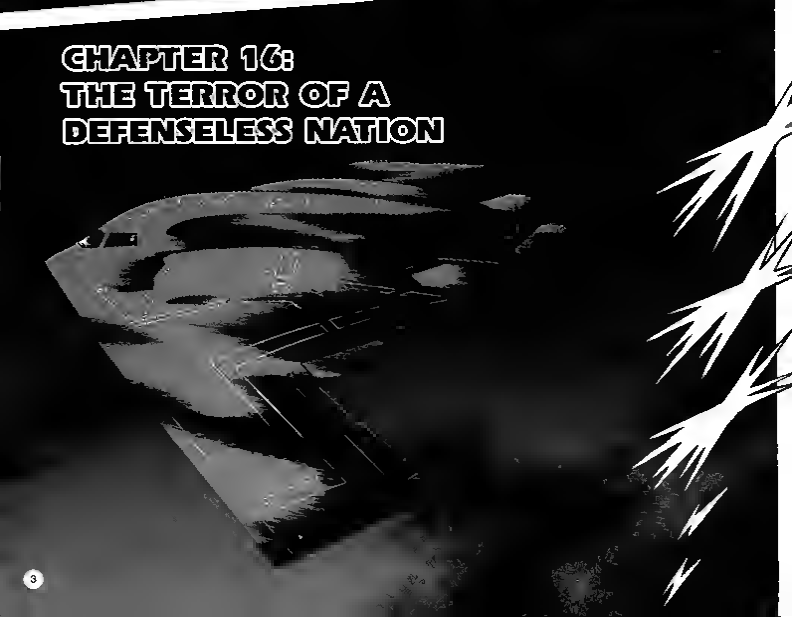
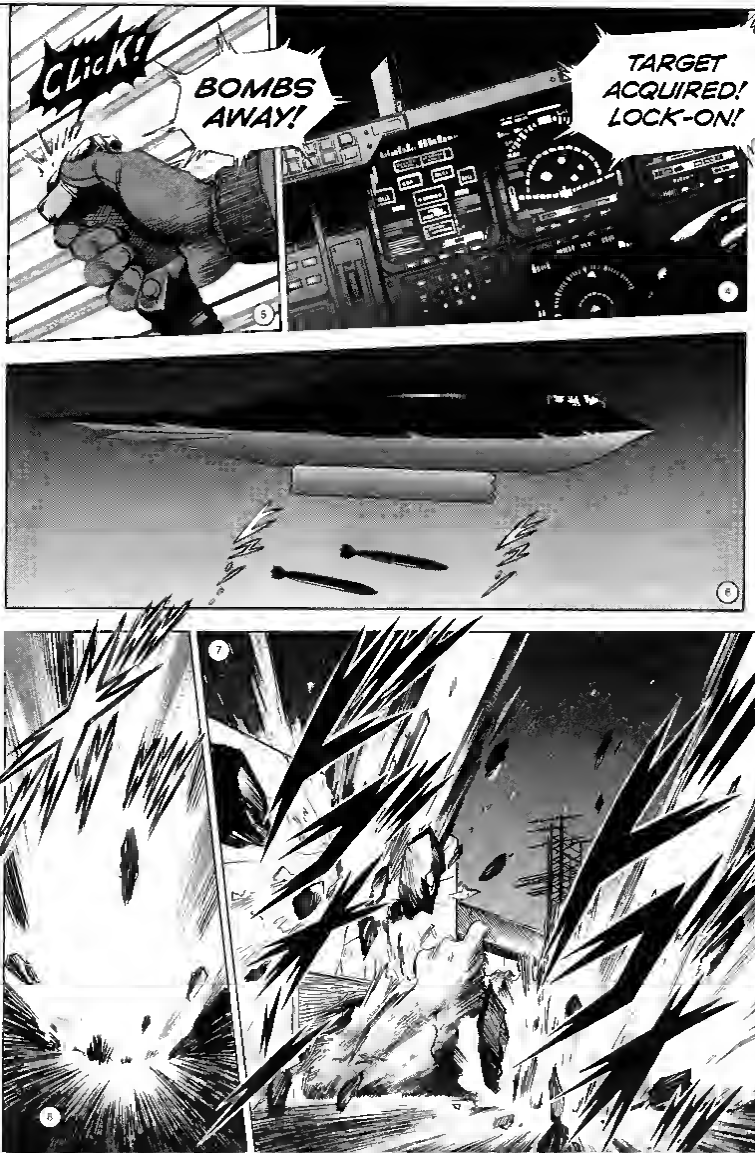



# CHAPTER 16: THE TERROR OF A DEFENSELESS NATION




CLICK!
BOMBS AWAY!
5
TARGET ACQUIRED! LOCK-ON!
4
6
7
8

10
11

CHAPTER 16:
THE TERROR OF A
DEFENSELESS NATION

14
EXACTLY ONE HOUR AGO, I ORDERED AN AIR STRIKE WITH OUR B-2A SPIRIT BOMBERS..
..AGAINST ALL MAJOR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN NORTH KOREA
13
OUR GOAL IS TO BRING A SWIFT AND DECISIVE END TO THE UPHEAVAL ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA
WE BELIEVE THAT 80 PERCENT OF PYONGYANG HAS BEEN DESTROYED
15
OFF THE COAST OF FUKUI PREFECTURE, THE SEA OF JAPAN
16

THE REFUGEE FACILITIES SET UP FOR THIS ASIAN CRISIS ARE ALREADY FULL.
NOW HOW ARE WE GOING TO DEAL WITH THIS?
18
THE DAILY GUTSOON
17
U.S. BOMBS NORTH KOREA
Pyongyang Destroyed?
Increase of refugees expected in the Sea of Japan and at the Chinese border
MAN, GIMME A BREAK.
WHAT, ANOTHER ONE!?
THEY'RE NOT RESPONDING TO OUR RADIO HAILS
THERE'S A VESSEL UP AHEAD. IT APPEARS TO BE A FISHING BOAT, SIR!
19
HMM?
21
THIS IS THE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY.
AHOY, TRAWLER, STOP THE BOAT! WE REPEAT, STOP THE BOAT!
20

OH, MAN!
22

23

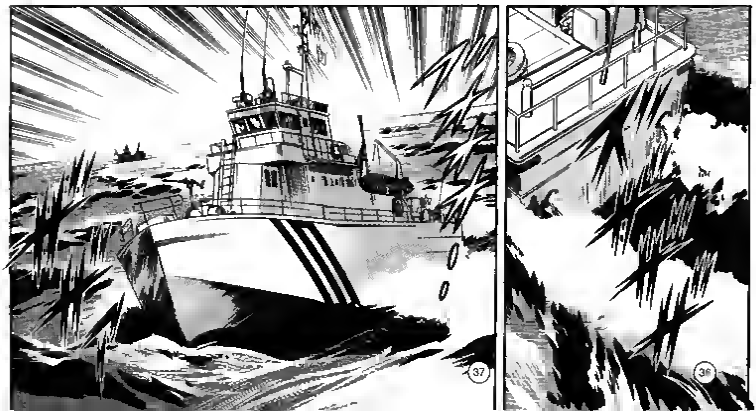
26
HEY, THIS ONE'S STILL BREATHING
SLAP
SO IS THIS ONE. HEY! ARE YOU OK?

25
CONFIRM HOW MANY OF THEM ARE ABOARD AND IF ANY ARE ALIVE, THEN WE'LL CALL HEADQUARTERS

LOOK AT THEM, ALL SKIN AND BONES.
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM LIKE THIS
24

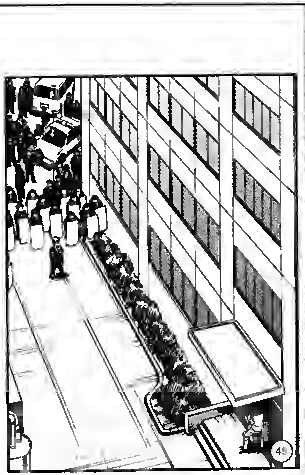
30
HEY! HE'S RESPOND-ING
27
WHA..?
28
29
WH...
WHAT THE HELL!?
31
UH...
32
HEY !!

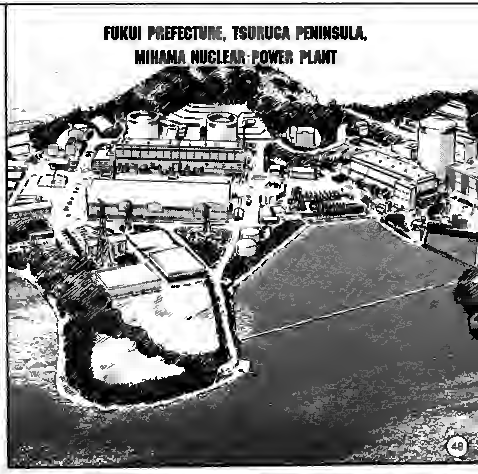
34
33
35

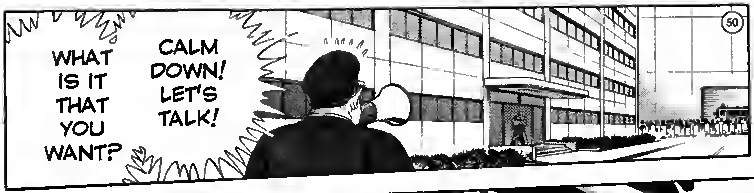

37
36

39
THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, SAKURAGI, ADVOCATING THE IDEA OF "JAPAN AS A TRULY INDEPENDENT NATION" HAS CALLED FOR SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND HOUSE OF COUNCILORS.
THE BIRTH OF A NEW JAPAN!
TOKYO
Panasonic
ALTA
38
AS NO ONE CAN PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THIS ELECTION, THE NATION WILL NO DOUBT BE IN A STATE OF CONFUSION UNTIL ELECTION DAY.
CANDIDATES FORCED TO UNEXPECTEDLY CAMPAIGN NATIONWIDE ARE HARDLY ABLE TO CONCEAL THEIR BEWILDERMENT.
THE ISSUE OF THIS ELECTION IS "CRISIS"! HOWEVER, WITH BARELY SEVEN DAYS LEFT UNTIL ELECTION DAY...
40
AS OF NOW WE DO NOT KNOW IF THEIR HEAD OF STATE IS DEAD OR ALIVE.
DUE TO THE AIR ATTACK BY THE U.S. AIRFORCE EARLY THIS MORNING, NORTH KOREA HAS CEASED TO FUNCTION AS A STATE.
42
NEXT, CRISIS ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA...
41

SAKURAGI! MEN WHO ARE BELIEVED TO BE NORTH KOREAN AGENTS...
...POSING AS MEMBERS OF THE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY...
...HAVE TAKEN HOSTAGES AT THE MIHAMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT!
41
YES.. WHAT ?
42
RING
43
44
WH... WHAT !?
45
47
WHAT WE'VE FEARED HAS HAPPENED MUCH SOONER THAN EXPECTED!

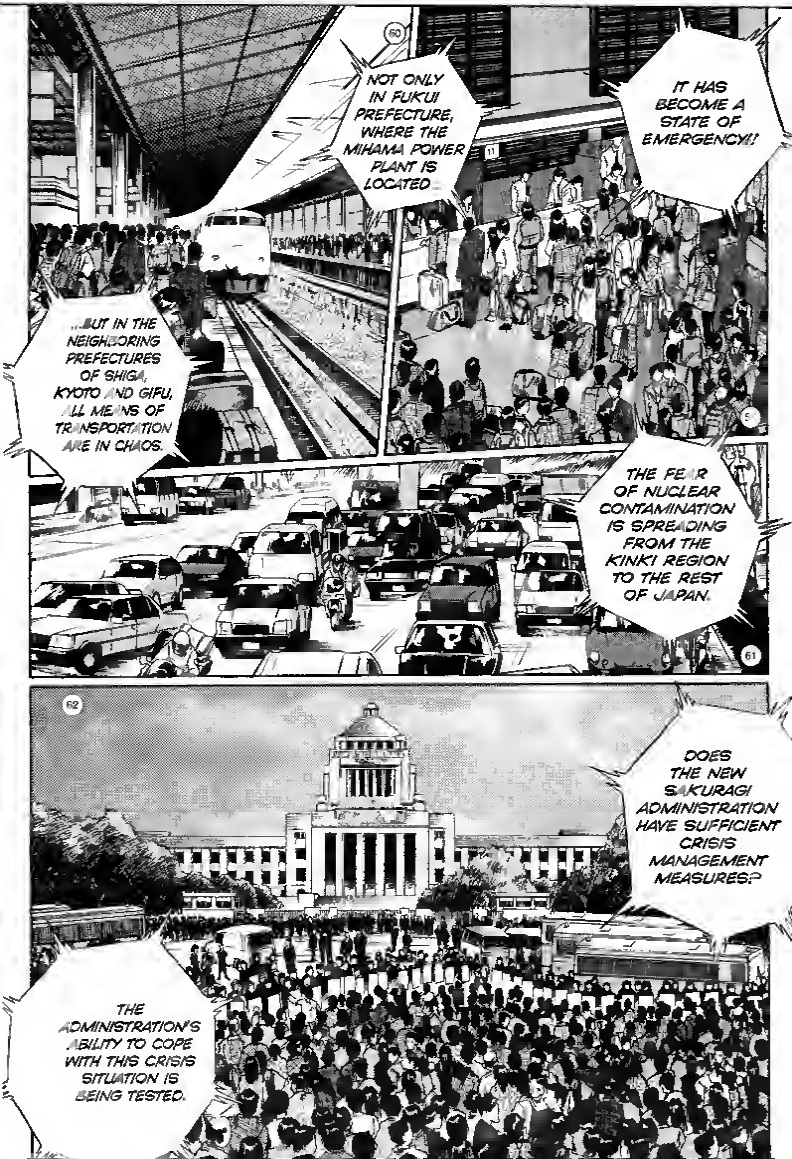



FUKUI PREFECTURE, TSURUGA PENINSULA,
MIHAMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT


CALM DOWN! LET'S TALK!
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?

IF YOU DO NOT MEET OUR DEMANDS WITHIN THE NEXT 24 HOURS, WE'LL EXPLODE THE BOMB WE'VE INSTALLED ON THE NUCLEAR REACTOR!
PREPARE A HUNDRED MILLION IN U.S. DOLLARS AND FIVE MILITARY FIGHTER PLANES !!
YOU... WHAT !?

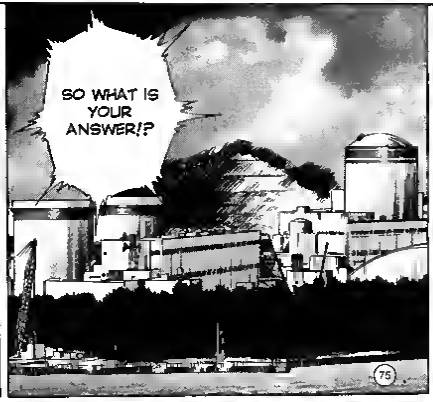
CITY OF FUKUI
AN UNBELIEVABLE EMERGENCY SITUATION HAS STRUCK JAPAN AS THE NATION IS PREPARING FOR THE ELECTION!
53
FAR WORSE THAN THE 1986 CHERNOBYL LEAK IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION!
IF THE NUCLEAR REACTOR IS BOMBED, WE'LL SUFFER A RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION ...
54
55
GULP
56
THESE ARE TRUE PROFESSIONALS!
IT IS AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS SITUATION!
THEY WERE PROBABLY SLAIN BY THE SUSPECTS AFTER WITNESSING THEIR MOVEMENTS.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT, A FAMILY OF THREE WAS DISCOVERED STABBED TO DEATH ALONG NEARBY SHORES.
56
WE BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE OPTED FOR A NEW LIFE AS REFUGEES RATHER THAN DYING IN A BATTLE THEY'RE BOUND TO LOSE.
JUDGING FROM THE SEIZURE TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED BY THE SUSPECTS, THEY ARE ASSUMED TO BE HIGHLY TRAINED NORTH KOREAN AGENTS.
57


60
NOT ONLY IN FUKUI PREFECTURE, WHERE THE MIHAMA POWER PLANT IS LOCATED...
IT HAS BECOME A STATE OF EMERGENCY!!
...BUT IN THE NEIGHBORING PREFECTURES OF SHIGA, KYOTO AND GIFU, ALL MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION ARE IN CHAOS.
THE FEAR OF NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION IS SPREADING FROM THE KINKI REGION TO THE REST OF JAPAN.
61
62
DOES THE NEW SAKURAGI ADMINISTRATION HAVE SUFFICIENT CRISIS MANAGEMENT MEASURES?
THE ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO COPE WITH THIS CRISIS SITUATION IS BEING TESTED.

LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY
63
HA HA! SAKURAGI MUST BE TEARING HIS HAIR OUT RIGHT NOW!
64
THAT'S WHAT HE GETS FOR MAKING FOOLS OF US!
65
THIS IS GREAT. LET'S SEE HOW HE CAN COPE WITH THIS ONE, SHALL WE? HEE HEE HEE.
66
WHAT ?
THIS WILL ONLY SHOW THAT OUR LIBERAL CONSTITU-TION PARTY IS THE TRUE LEADER OF JAPAN
THE VOTES WILL COME TO THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY!
THIS ELECTION IS OURS!
68
HOW IRONIC THAT THIS HAPPENS BEFORE AN ELECTION WHERE "CRISIS" IS THE MAIN ISSUE, AS HE SUGGESTED
SAKURAGI WILL NO DOUBT LOSE POPULARITY... AND IT WILL PROVE TO BE FATAL FOR HIM!
67

69
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
PRIME MINISTER SAKURAGI! DO YOU INTEND TO COMPLY WITH THE SUSPECTS' DEMANDS?
HOW DO YOU INTEND TO CALM THE NATION?
70
HM?
SHUFF
71
A HELI-COPTER ?
72
EVERYTHING'S READY, SAKURAGI.
73
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU NOW.
74
YES, I KNOW.

I REPEAT! THIS IS NOT A BLUFF!
WE HAVE A NUCLEAR SPECIALIST WITHIN OUR GROUP!
76


SO WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER!?
75

80

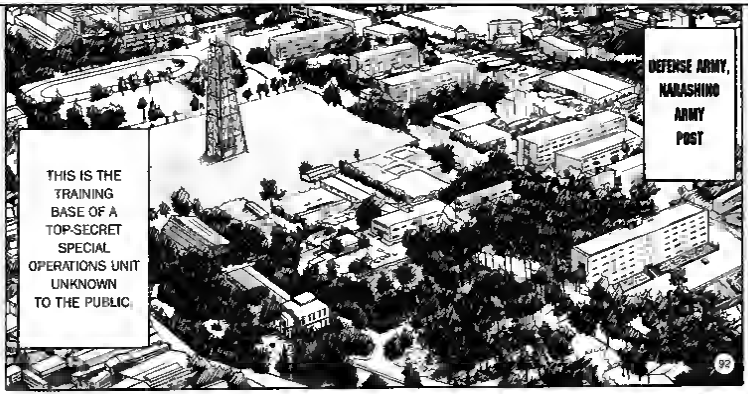
I THINK THAT IT IS BETTER FOR ALL OF US, IF YOU SURRENDER NOW!
WE... WE ARE DISCUSSING YOUR DEMANDS AT THIS MOMENT!
77

I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE SUCH A DECISION AND...
W...WAIT A MINUTE! I'M ONLY A CHIEF OF THE DEPARTMENT ....
79

I WANT AN ANSWER, NOW!!
YES OR NO!?
76

82
THEN I'VE GOT NO USE FOR YOU.
81
AAAAGH!
83
WE WILL NOT TOLERATE YOUR OBVIOUS DELAYING TACTICS!
CALL SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE US AN IMMEDIATE ANSWER!
CAPTAIN !!
84
85

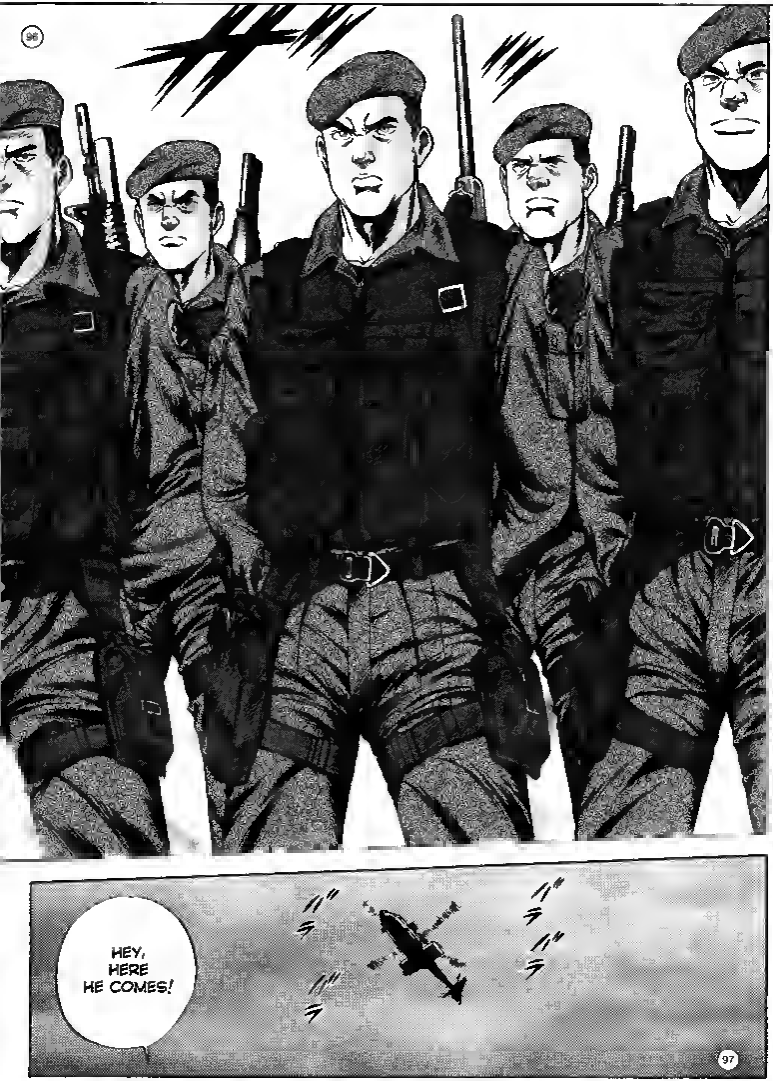
87
WELL, THIS IS MY CONSTITUENCY, AFTER ALL... I SIMPLY COULD NOT STAY AWAY AND MAKE ELECTION SPEECHES
MR. MOCHIZUKI, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS REGARDING THIS SITUATION?
FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEFENSE AGENCY AND DIET MEMBER OF THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY MOCHIZUKI TAICHI HAS ARRIVED AT THE CRIME SCENE.
86
WE'D SOLVE THIS MATTER WITH IMMEDIATE ACTION AND DECISIVENESS!
AND WHAT IS PRIME MINISTER SAKURAGI DOING NOW? IT'S *TERRIBLE* HOW POORLY HE'S HANDLING THIS.
THE LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY WOULDN'T BE SO *INEFFICIENT*!
88
91
WE TALK TO *HIM* NEXT!
90
89


DEFENSE ARMY, NARASHINO ARMY POST
THIS IS THE TRAINING BASE OF A TOP-SECRET SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC
92

AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE OF JOINT TRAINING WITH THE U.S. AND GREAT BRITAIN THEY HAVE BEEN READY FOR ACTUAL COMBAT
THIS SPECIAL UNIT IS TRAINED AND PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ANY TYPE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY
94

THEIR CODE NAME: RED CARD
RED CARD
93

HOWEVER, PRIOR TO THE TERMINATION OF THE SECURITY TREATY THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN CALLED FOR
95


96
HEY, HERE HE COMES!
97

99
LOOK AT THAT HUGE CHOPPER.
GREAT PERFOR-MANCE FOR THE ELECTION, HUH?
WATCH, HE'LL HAVE A WHOLE ENTOURAGE OF MEDIA GUYS WITH HIM.
AHEM!
100

101
102

103

HUH?
HEY.. H...HE'S ALONE?
106
105

104

THE DECISION TO DEPLOY THEM IS UP TO YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER, AS THEIR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
FOLLOWING THE OUTBREAK OF THE INCIDENT, WE IMMEDIATELY ASSEMBLED THE UNIT AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THEIR DISPATCH.
108
DEFENSE ARMY SPECIAL FORCE UNIT COMMANDER TOKUKAGA YOSHIO
PRIME MINISTER!
107
LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH
HERE IT COMES THE LONG-WINDED SPEECH
110
109
HUH?
112
111

THAT'S WHAT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO.
THE GREATEST DUTY OF THE LEADER OF A NATION IS TO PROTECT HIS PEOPLE
113
I ORDER A COMPLETE STOP TO THE ACTS OF DESTRUCTION AND AGGRESSION THAT THREATEN THE LIVES OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE!!
YOU HAVE MY FULL AUTHORIZATION TO SHOOT OR KILL THOSE WHO RESIST!
THAT IS ALL!!
114
ER...
LRR ...
115

116

KA... KATAGIRI!
HUH... YOU'VE GOT BALLS, MR. PRIME MINISTER
117

SALUTE!
SQUAD, TO THE PRIME MINISTER!
120

119
118
FOR MORE THAN A DECADE...
...WE MAY HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF LIKE YOU.
RED CARD LEADER: KATAGIRI TORU

122
...HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO DO SO!
DON'T WORRY, MR. PRIME MINISTER! ALL 40 OF US ASSEMBLED FOR THIS MISSION...
121

123

124
THANK YOU, AND GOOD LUCK.

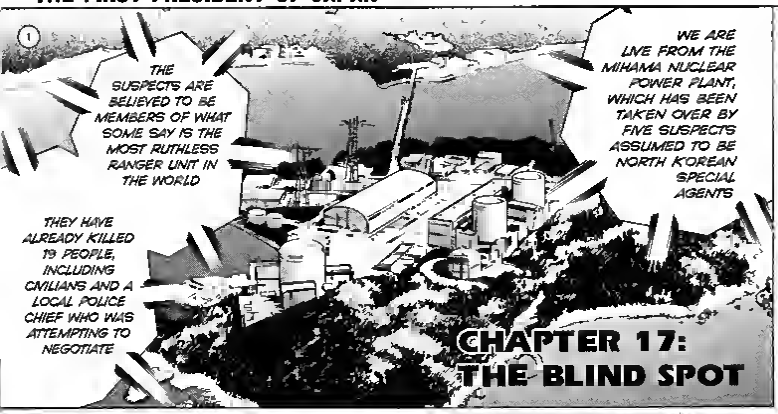
127
GOOD LUCK, MR MOCHIZUKI!
HEY... STOP! LET ME GO!
IT APPEARS THAT LCP DIET MEMBER MOCHIZUKI TAICHI, WHO WAS CALLED FOR BY THE SUSPECTS AS THE NEGOTIATOR, HAS ARRIVED.
MR MOCHIZUKI IS HERE!
YOU TELL 'EM, SIR!
126
CLEAR THE WAY!
125

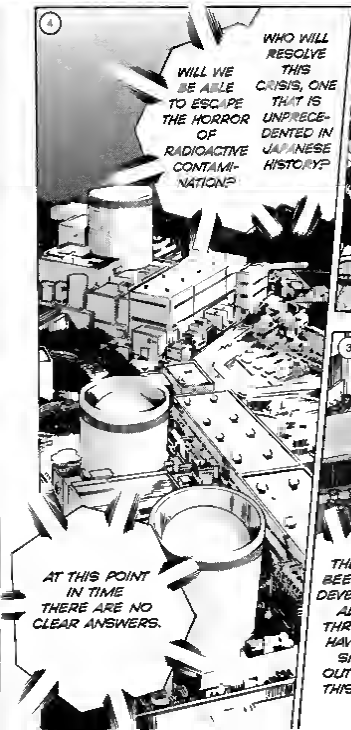
I... I DON'T WANT TO DIE !!
AAARGGH !

129

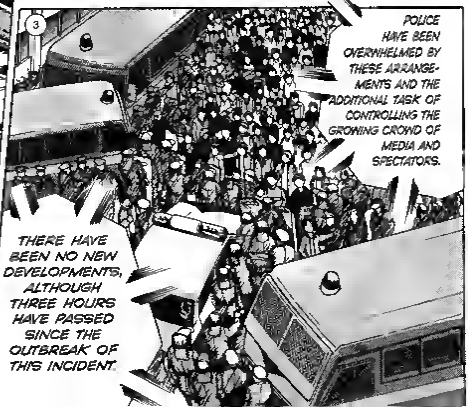
132
130
131

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木晴一郎

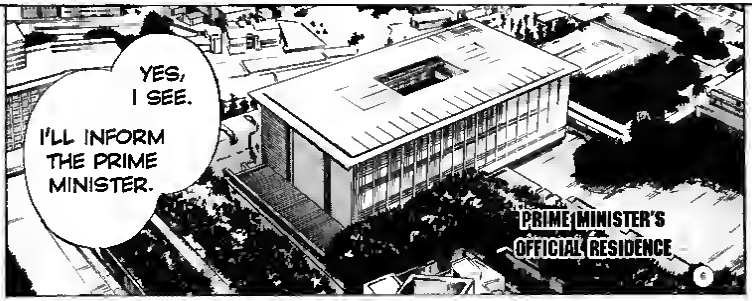

1
THE SUSPECTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE MEMBERS OF WHAT SOME SAY IS THE MOST RUTHLESS RANGER UNIT IN THE WORLD
WE ARE LIVE FROM THE MIHAMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN OVER BY FIVE SUSPECTS ASSUMED TO BE NORTH KOREAN SPECIAL AGENTS
THEY HAVE ALREADY KILLED 19 PEOPLE, INCLUDING CIVILIANS AND A LOCAL POLICE CHIEF WHO WAS ATTEMPTING TO NEGOTIATE
CHAPTER 17: THE BLIND SPOT

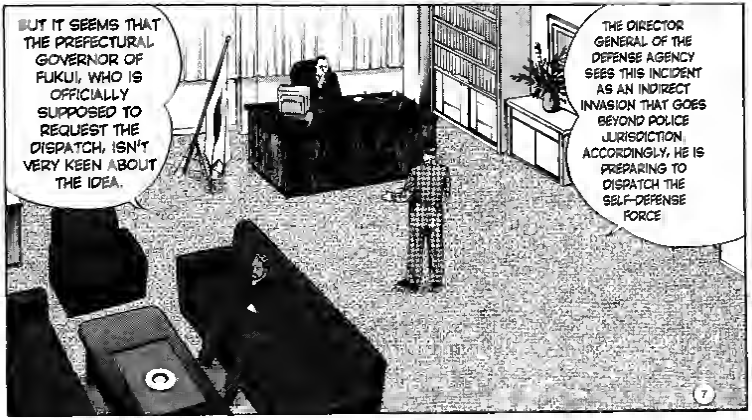

4
WILL WE BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE HORROR OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION?
WHO WILL RESOLVE THIS CRISIS, ONE THAT IS UNPRECEDENTED IN JAPANESE HISTORY?
AT THIS POINT IN TIME THERE ARE NO CLEAR ANSWERS.

2
THE SUSPECTS HAVE CALLED FOR THE FORMER HEAD OF THE DEFENSE AGENCY, MR. MOCHIZUKI, AS THEIR NEW NEGOTIATOR.


3
POLICE HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY THESE ARRANGEMENTS AND THE ADDITIONAL TASK OF CONTROLLING THE GROWING CROWD OF MEDIA AND SPECTATORS.
THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS, ALTHOUGH THREE HOURS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THIS INCIDENT.

# CHAPTER 17: THE BLIND SPOT


YES, I SEE.
I'LL INFORM THE PRIME MINISTER.
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
6


BUT IT SEEMS THAT THE PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR OF FUKUI, WHO IS OFFICIALLY SUPPOSED TO REQUEST THE DISPATCH, ISN'T VERY KEEN ABOUT THE IDEA.
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEFENSE AGENCY SEES THIS INCIDENT AS AN INDIRECT INVASION THAT GOES BEYOND POLICE JURISDICTION. ACCORDINGLY, HE IS PREPARING TO DISPATCH THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE
7

IT'S LIKELY THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO HARM THAT RELATIONSHIP BY REQUESTING A SELF-DEFENSE FORCE DEPLOYMENT.
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS USUALLY HAVE COZY RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOCAL POLICE
9

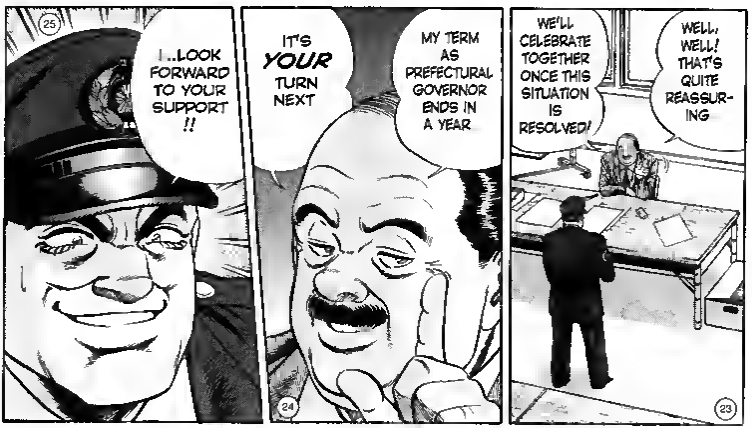
WHAT?
HE PROBABLY THINKS, LIKE MANY THAT THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE IS JUST FOR NATURAL DISASTERS FOR HIM, THE LOCAL POLICE ARE ENOUGH.
8

THIS IS AN INVASION!
DON'T THEY REALIZE HOW SERIOUS THIS IS?
HOW CAN THEY BE SO STUPID?
10
...THEY'RE STILL CLINGING TO OUT-DATED PRACTICES AND RIGID BUREAUCRACY!
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE FACED WITH A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY..
11
IT'S A CRIMINAL CASE
BESIDES, THIS INCIDENT IS THE SAME AS A BANK ROBBERY OR A HOSTAGE SITUATION
14
PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR OF FUKUI URAGAMI NORIHITO
13
WHAT IS TOKYO THINKING? THIS ISN'T A NATURAL DISASTER
REQUEST FOR A SELF-DEFENSE FORCE DISPATCH?
12
MIHAMA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CRISIS HEAD-QUARTERS

16
I PROMISE YOU THAT WE WILL RESOLVE THIS CASE IMMEDIATELY!
CHIEF OF FUKUI PREFECTURAL POLICE DEPARTMENT SOMA YOSHIHIKO
CERTAINLY! WE DON'T NEED THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE
15
17
OF COURSE! WE HAVE INFORMATION.
YOU SEEM PRETTY CONFIDENT. ARE YOU SURE?
THAT'S NOT ALL! WE'LL USE S.A.T. IN THE ASSAULT!
18
LOOK AT THIS THIS IS THE BLUE-PRINT OF THE POWER PLANT
USUALLY, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE OBLIGATED TO HAVE A VERY STRICT SECURITY SYSTEM.
IF WE USE THIS ROUTE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET CLOSE TO THE CONTROL ROOM WHERE THE SUSPECTS ARE WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.
BUT WE FOUND BLIND SPOTS IN THE SURVEILLANCE CAMERA SYSTEM!
S.A.T. ?
19
20

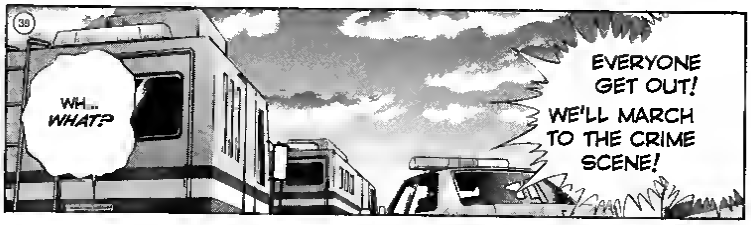
S.A.T.- SHORT FOR SPECIAL ASSAULT TEAM!
THEY'RE STATIONED IN SEVEN MAJOR CITIES INCLUDING THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT IN TOKYO, BUT DETAILS ARE HIGHLY CLASSIFIED
THEY'RE THE BEST OF THE BEST IN THE POLICE ORGANIZA-TION
21

DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING!
WE'LL INCREASE THE NUMBER OF POLICE OFFICERS AND RIOT POLICE ON SITE, AND I'LL BE LEADING THEM MYSELF
22


I..LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT !!
25
IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT
MY TERM AS PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR ENDS IN A YEAR
24
WE'LL CELEBRATE TOGETHER ONCE THIS SITUATION IS RESOLVED!
WELL, WELL! THAT'S QUITE REASSUR-ING
23

28
THE ROAD'S BLOCKED. THE MEDIA AND SPECTATORS HAVE PARKED ALONG THE ROADSIDE
27
29
26
WHY ARE YOU STOP-PING? HURRY!!
UH... WELL...
30
WH- WHAT!? JUST RUN OVER THEM OR SOMETHING!
CHIEF!!
WE CAN'T DO THAT!
31

IMAGINE IF THAT HAPPENED WITH ALL THESE CARS!
32
AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE CAR OWNERS SUCCESSFULLY SUED THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR DAMAGES
THERE WAS AN INCIDENT WHERE FIREMEN FORCE-FULLY MOVED ILLEGAL PARKED CARS
TV. SEVEN
36
THEN WE'LL NEED APPROVAL FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.
THEN LET'S RADIO FOR A HELI-COPTER...
34
33
TH... THAT'S ABSURD!
35
THERE HAS TO BE A SCHOOL SOMEWHERE. WE CAN LAND ON THE PLAYGROUND!
WE CAN'T. THERE'S NOWHERE TO LAND.
38
WH... WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS COUNTRY!?
37


38
WH... WHAT?
EVERYONE GET OUT!
WE'LL MARCH TO THE CRIME SCENE!

40
ALL THOSE OF THE PRESS, PLEASE STEP BACK MORE THAN 50 METERS FOR YOUR SAFETY!
AND NOW, MR. MOCHIZUKI IS ABOUT TO ENTER AS THE NEGOTIATOR!

43
42
ARE... ARE YOU SURE I'LL BE OK?
PLEASE TRUST US, MR. MOCHIZUKI!

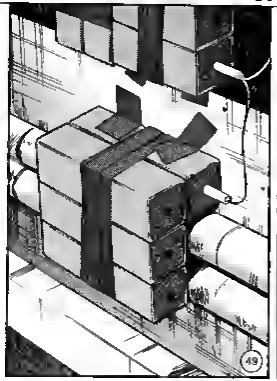
41

44

47
UM... OK!

THE SUSPECTS WON'T BE ABLE TO LAY A SINGLE FINGER ON YOU!
THE S.A.T. TEAM WILL GO IN WITH YOU.
46

GAMBARE!
IT'LL BE A CHANCE FOR YOU TO SHOW THEM WHAT A MAN YOU ARE.
THE ENTIRE NATION IS WATCHING YOU!
45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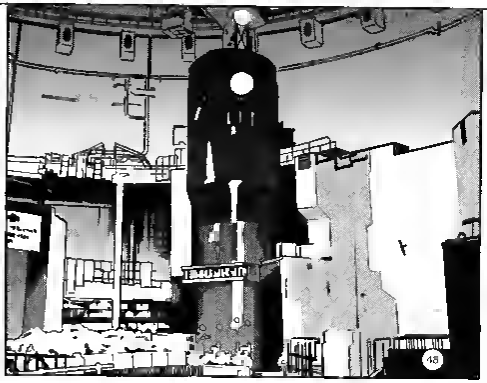
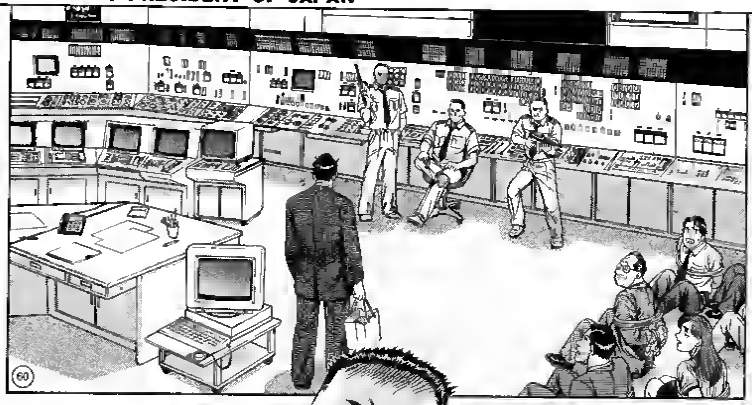

48

50

52

51

AHEM... THIS IS MOCHIZUKI!
I...I'M HERE AS THE NEGOTIATOR!
53
54
55
56
57
GET IN!!
58
59


60

CLUNK
CLUNK
61

64
OFF

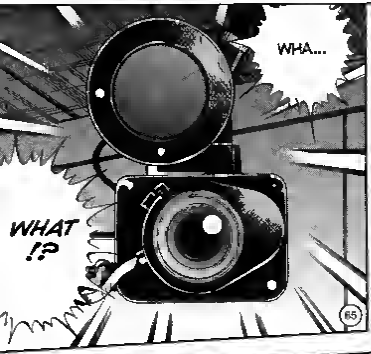
WHY DON'T YOU EAT SOMETHING FIRST, BEFORE WE DISCUSS...
YOU... YOU MUST BE HUNGRY! HERE!
62

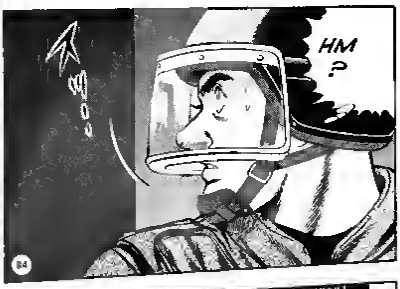
3
WE DON'T INTEND TO STAY LONG IN A COUNTRY THAT DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SECURITY TREATY. TOO DANGEROUS. IT COULD BE THE TARGET OF A MISSILE ATTACK AT ANY TIME.
WE WANT YOUR IMMEDIATE ANSWER TO OUR DEMANDS!

HUH ?
68
UH.. WELL.. REGARDING THAT MATTER... UH..
WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING IT CAREFULLY AND...
65
67
58
AGH!
69
OH ...!
71
70

WHAT'S THIS?
72
73
AHHHH ...
74
77
CAPTAIN !!
UNSUK
75
76

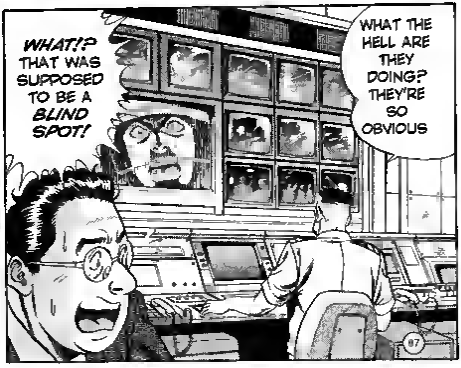
MR. MOCHIZUKI IS IN DANGER! GO!
HEAD-QUARTERS TO S.A.T.!
79
WHAT!?
CHIEF! THEY CRUSHED OUR BUG!
78
WE ARE APPROXIMATELY 300 METERS FROM THE CONTROL ROOM! WE'LL ENTER IN FIVE MINUTES!
WE ARE PENETRATING FROM THE BACK ENTRANCE OF MACHINERY HALL NO 2!
THIS IS S.A.T.!
80
TURU
82
!
83
81


WHA...
WHAT !?
85


HM ?
84

86

KILL HIM!
THERE'S A RAT IN BLOCK 2-B, NEAR TURBINE NO. 2
88


WHAT!? THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A BLIND SPOT!
WHAT THE HELL ARE THEY DOING? THEY'RE SO OBVIOUS
87

MISSION FAILED!
WE...WE'VE LOST RADIO CONTACT WITH ALL OF THEM!
89
RAT-TAT-TAT
R.R.R.
!
90
THAT'S... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE !!
WE'VE LOST ALL OF S.A.T.!?
91
NO!
THEY'RE ALL DEAD!
NOOO!
92

UURP!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
94

P... PLEASE! DON' KILL ME...
I... I'M SORRY! I DON' HAVE THA KIND UV AUTHORITY ...
95

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU HAD DECISION-MAKING POWERS
DIDN'T YOU COME TO NEGOTIATE?
I HAVE NO USE FOR YOU THEN!
DIE!
97
95

GACK !!
100
AH AH
C... CAPTAIN !!
101
AHH... AHH...
102
WHAT IS THIS! I THOUGHT WE KILLED ALL THE RATS WHO GOT IN HERE!
DAMN! LET'S JUST KILL EVERYONE THEN!
103

BOOM!
WHAT WAS THAT!?
104
GET DOWN!
105
AARGH!
AGH...
107

IT...IT CAN'T BE!
IT'S... IT'S A CONCUSSION GRENADE!
109
108
110
112
AGH! MY EYES !!
111

114
113
GRRR
GRRR
NYAH
NYAH
115
116
117
118

119

122

120
... NOT SURE.
WHAT HAP-PENED?

121

HLM
123

WE HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED BY ORDER OF THE PRIME MINISTER! WE HAVE KILLED ALL SUSPECTS! OVER AND OUT!
THIS IS RED CARD, THE SPECIAL UNIT OF THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE.

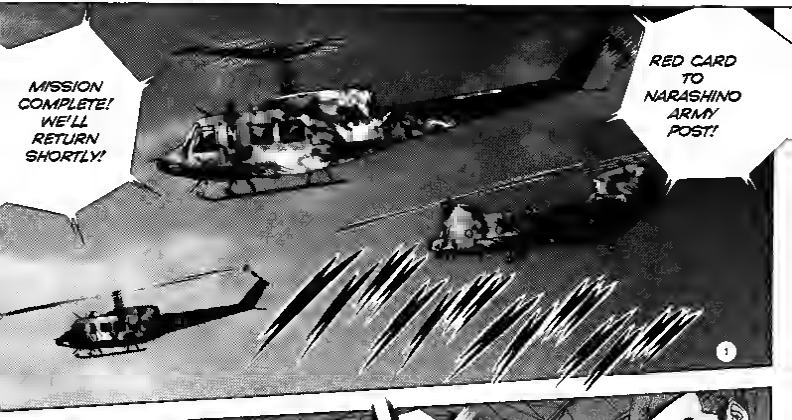
UGH...
BAM
126
127
130
..HOW DID YOU SNEAK IN UNNOTICED?
RED CARD... I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU GUYS... TELL ME...
129
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME .. MY MEN.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
128
HUH?
AND WE NOTICED ONE THING.
WE OBTAINED INFORMATION REGARDING THE PLANS AND THE SECURITY SYSTEM FROM MULTIPLE SOURCES
131

SOMEONE BROKE INTO THE POWER PLANT LAST MONTH.
THERE WERE NO DAMAGES, BUT IT EXPOSED HOW LAX SECURITY WAS
HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY WHO SUPERVISE THIS PLACE *HID* THAT FACT TO *SAVE FACE*
132
AND THEY DIDN'T DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE LARGE INCREASE OF NEWLY INSTALLED SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS.
133
THAT... THAT'S *ABSURD!*
134
YOU WEREN'T INFERIOR TO US.
IF WE WERE IN OPPOSITE PLACES, WE'D BE DEAD NOW.
135
IT TOOK US A WHILE TO CONFIRM THIS.
IF WE'D BEEN HERE SOONER, YOU MAY HAVE NOT LOST YOUR MEN.
I'M SORRY ...
135

IS THIS WHAT KIND OF COUNTRY JAPAN IS!?
I LOST MY MEN BECAUSE OF A COVER-UP?
138
CAM!
137
139

140
WE'VE FOUND THE BOMB ON THE NUCLEAR REACTOR, AND WE'VE DISARMED IT.
LET'S GO ...

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE
FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木健一郎
TM


MISSION COMPLETE! WE'LL RETURN SHORTLY!
RED CARD TO NARASHINO ARMY POST!
1

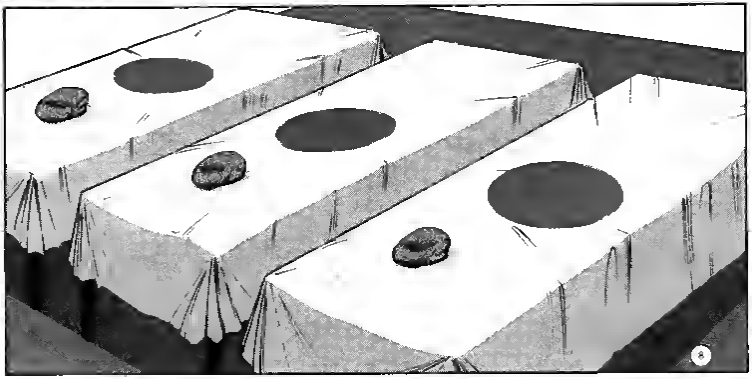
WELL DONE
DAMAGE REPORT
2

3
.....

4
TWO WOUNDED.
THREE DEAD
CHAPTER 18:
A NEW FORM OF NATIONAL SECURITY

# CHAPTER 18: A NEW FORM OF NATIONAL SECURITY

FOLLOWING MORNING:
SELF-DEFENSE FORCE
NARASHINO ARMY POST
7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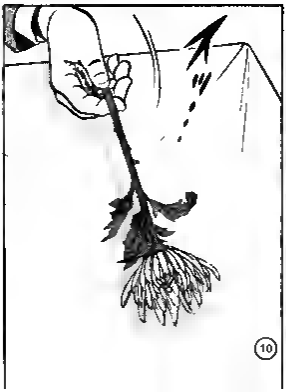
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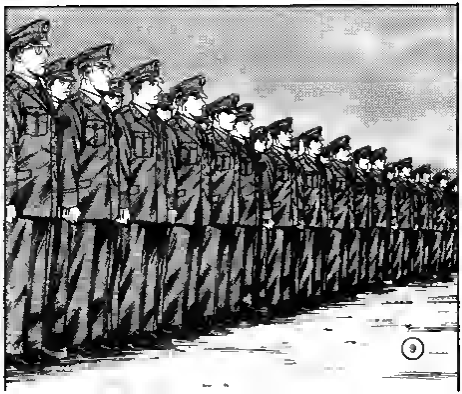
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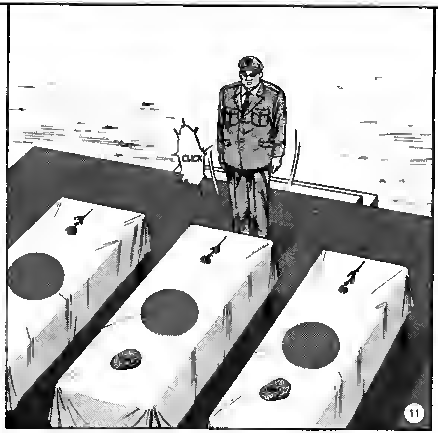

CLICK
11

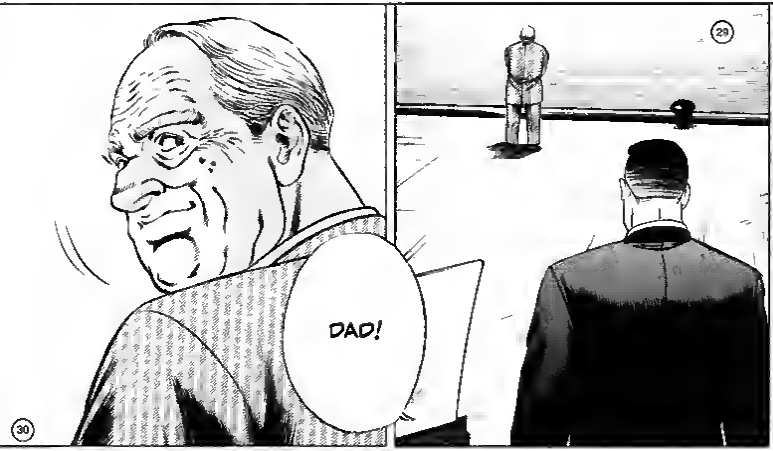
13

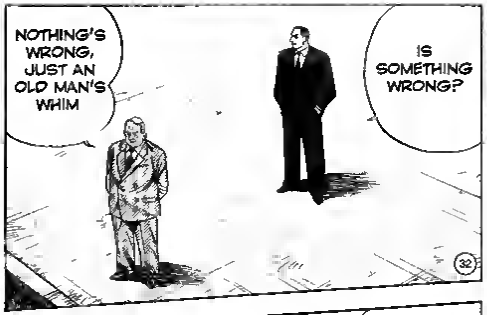
15

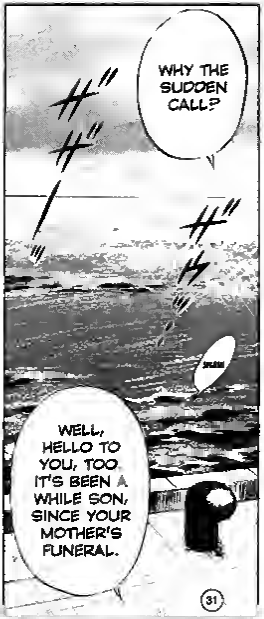
14

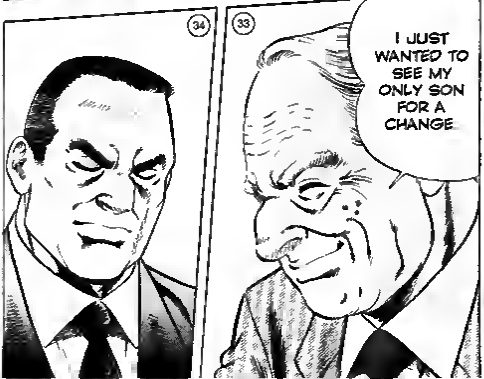
18
WE BELIEVE THAT THE MISSION WAS A SUCCESS.
!!!
17
16
STEP FORWARD, CAPTAIN KATAGIRI!
SNIF
YES, SIR!
19
WE HAVE EXPERIENCED WAR FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
WE CANNOT GRIEVE TOO MUCH OVER THE DEATH OF OUR MEN.
NO AMOUNT OF TRAINING CAN EVER PREPARE US FOR THE PAINFUL REALITY OF WAR.
ALL JAPANESE PEOPLE MUST NOW TRULY REFLECT WHAT WAR AND HUMAN LIFE MEAN TO THEM. AND WHAT A NATION SHOULD BE.
21
AND THE PAIN WILL NOT BE LIMITED TO THIS UNIT.
BUT THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING
20

THE FOLLOWING DAY
22
HELLO, KATAGIRI RESIDENCE.
24
...
SOTO
片桐
KATAGIRI
23
OH...
25
26
チャ...
28
27


29
DAD!
30


NOTHING'S WRONG, JUST AN OLD MAN'S WHIM
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
32

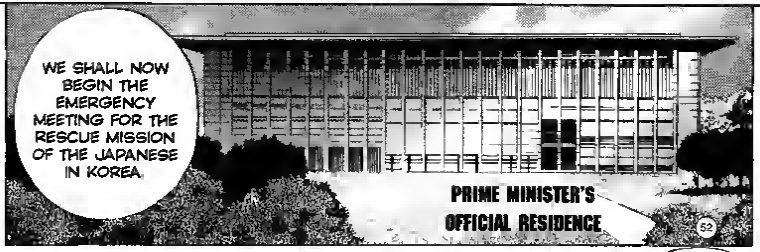

WHY THE SUDDEN CALL?
WELL, HELLO TO YOU, TOO. IT'S BEEN A WHILE SON, SINCE YOUR MOTHER'S FUNERAL.
31

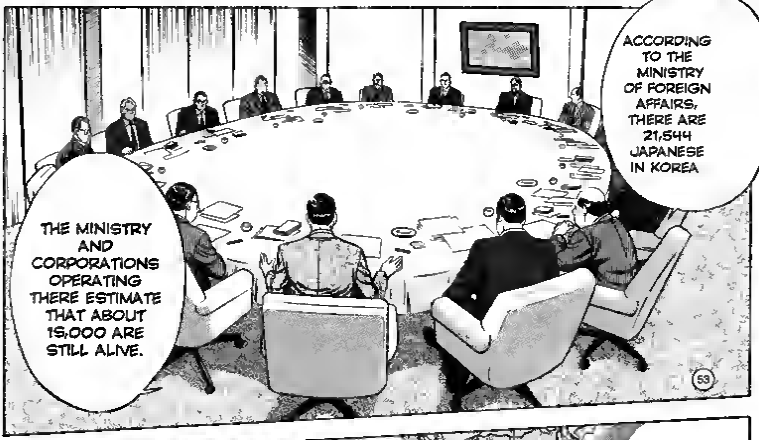

34
33
I JUST WANTED TO SEE MY ONLY SON FOR A CHANGE

I CAN'T STAY LONG, DAD
36
THE FUNERAL OF YOUR MEN?
!
37
35
ON THE OTHER HAND, IF YOU FAIL, YOU WILL BE ATTACKED FROM ALL SIDES FOR YOUR VERY PRESENCE. THAT'S THE NATURE OF YOUR JOB.
38
TOP-SECRET MISSIONS THAT WILL NEVER BE DISCLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.
SUCCESS IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND NOT APPRECIATED.
AND TAKE OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS?
TORU, MY SON... WHY DON'T YOU RETURN TO SHIKOKU?
39
40

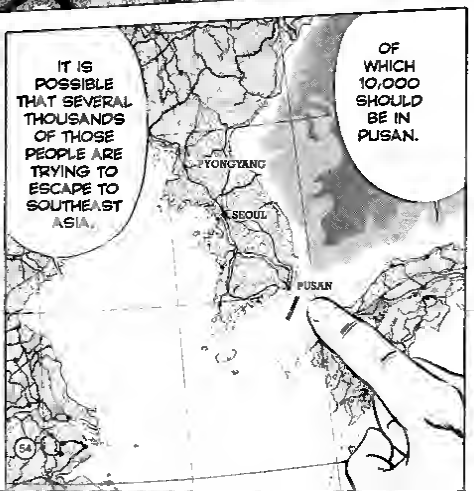
42
BUT THESE MEN VOLUNTEERED ...AND *DIED*.
MANY HAVE QUIT THE ARMED FORCES BECAUSE OF THIS WAR SCARE.
41
HAVE YOU NOT CHANGED YOUR MIND SINCE THEN?
TORU. REMEMBER HOW WE ALWAYS USED TO TALK ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY?
SEE YOU, DAD
43
46
TAKE CARE, DAD.
ALL RIGHT... I SEE.
44
45

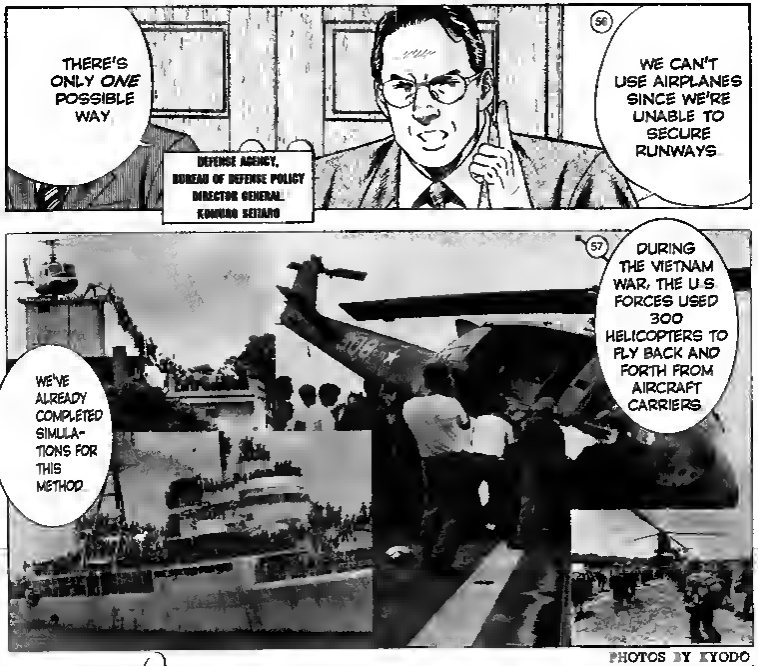
THE DAILY GUTSOON
Sakuragi Rockers Win
The Changing Face of Japanese Politics
Simultaneous Election for Both Houses - Government in Transition
FORTY PERCENT OF THE INCUMBENTS HAVE SAID THEY WON'T RUN. NOT ONLY THAT, MOST OF THE OLD DIET MEMBERS HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR RETIREMENT.
PORK BARREL POLITICIANS DON'T WANT THE RESPONSIBILITIES WITHOUT THE PERKS.
46
47
SAKURAGI KENICHIRO'S OFFICE
THE ASIAN CRISIS HAS REALLY AFFECTED THE ELECTION.
THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNOW THAT WITHOUT STABILITY IN A NATION, TRUE HAPPINESS CANNOT EXIST FOR ITS PEOPLE.
43
THE INTERESTING THING IS, MANY OF THOSE RUNNING FOR THIS ELECTION HAVE LIVED ABROAD.
JAPAN WILL JOIN THIS GLOBAL CURRENT AS WELL!
THE WORLD CAN'T CONTINUE WITH COUNTRIES THINKING ONLY OF THEIR OWN PROFITS AND IDEOLOGIES.
51
IT'S THE CURRENT OF THE TIMES.
50

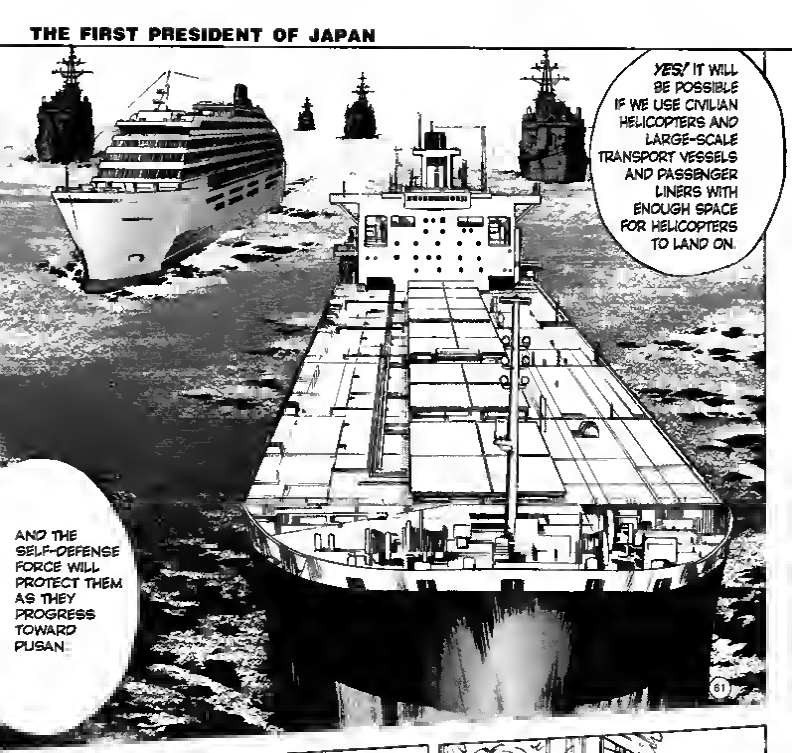

WE SHALL NOW BEGIN THE EMERGENCY MEETING FOR THE RESCUE MISSION OF THE JAPANESE IN KOREA.
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
52


ACCORDING TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THERE ARE 21,544 JAPANESE IN KOREA
THE MINISTRY AND CORPORATIONS OPERATING THERE ESTIMATE THAT ABOUT 15,000 ARE STILL ALIVE.
53

55
DO WE HAVE ANY CONCRETE RESCUE PLANS?


IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO ESCAPE TO SOUTHEAST ASIA.
OF WHICH 10,000 SHOULD BE IN PUSAN.
PYONGYANG
SEOUL
PUSAN
54


THERE'S ONLY *ONE* POSSIBLE WAY.
DEFENSE AGENCY, BUREAU OF DEFENSE POLICY DIRECTOR GENERAL KOMURO SEIJARO
56
WE CAN'T USE AIRPLANES SINCE WE'RE UNABLE TO SECURE RUNWAYS
WE'VE ALREADY COMPLETED SIMULATIONS FOR THIS METHOD.
57
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, THE U.S FORCES USED 300 HELICOPTERS TO FLY BACK AND FORTH FROM AIRCRAFT CARRIERS
PHOTOS BY KYODO
59
TRUE... BUT WE DO HAVE ALTERNATIVES.
60
YOU'RE NOT SAYING...
*WAIT A MINUTE!* JAPAN DOESN'T *HAVE* AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.
EVEN IF WE DID, WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH HELICOPTERS NECESSARY FOR A SMOOTH RESCUE MISSION.
68


YES! IT WILL BE POSSIBLE IF WE USE CIVILIAN HELICOPTERS AND LARGE-SCALE TRANSPORT VESSELS AND PASSENGER LINERS WITH ENOUGH SPACE FOR HELICOPTERS TO LAND ON.
AND THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE WILL PROTECT THEM AS THEY PROGRESS TOWARD PUSAN.
61

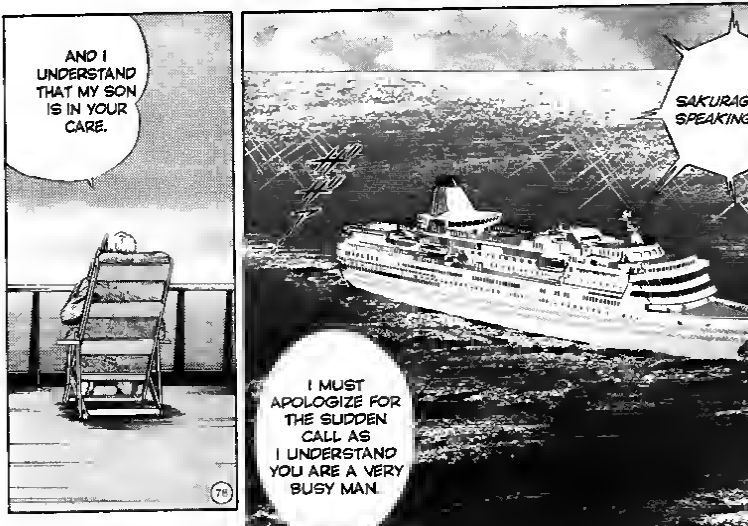
A RESCUE MISSION WITH CIVILIAN COOPERATION!?
IMPOSSIBLE!! THERE ARE TOO MANY PROBLEMS TO RESOLVE BEFORE WE CAN DO THIS!
62
FURTHERMORE, IT'S AN UNVIABLE OPTION WHEN YOU THINK OF THE JAPANESE ECONOMY!
WE WILL NEVER GET THEIR COOPERATION!
63
64
NOT QUITE... THERE IS ONE WAY.

66
MR. PRIME MINISTER!
65
IT IS POSSIBLE IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO *RENT* THE SHIPS TEMPORARILY.
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY KADOKURA MASATAKA
67
THIS IS A TRULY POLITICAL JUDGMENT THAT WILL DEMONSTRATE THE VALUE OF THE NEW SAKURAGI ADMINISTRATION!
HOW MUCH OF A WAR BUDGET IS OUR NATION WILLING TO ALLOCATE FOR THE EVACUATION OF TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JAPANESE CITIZENS?

68
68

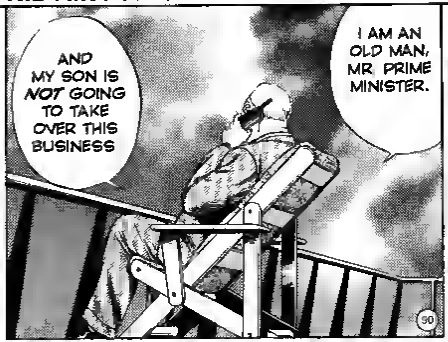
HOWEVER, NO STATE SHOULD ABANDON THE ATTEMPT TO RESCUE ITS PEOPLE FROM DANGER
70
THE GOVERNMENT MUST PROTECT NATIONAL INTERESTS
71
WE BEGIN THE RESCUE MISSION WITHIN 12 HOURS!
WE WILL REGARD INDIVIDUAL JAPANESE LIVES AS OUR NATIONAL INTEREST AND SAVE THEM!
PROCEED WITH THE ARRANGEMENTS OF TEMPORARILY RENTING OUR NATION'S LARGEST TRANSPORT VESSELS AND PASSENGER BOATS AND AS MANY HELICOPTERS AS POSSIBLE!
72
YES, SIR!
73
EXCUSE ME.
KNOCK KNOCK

HE SAYS HE'S THE CHAIRMAN OF SHIN-NIPPON MARINE TRANSPORTATION.
75
WHO IS IT?
MR. PRIME MINISTER, YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL
74
"JAPAN'S SHIPPING MAGNATE", KATAGIRI DAIJIRO!?
76
WHAT!? THE OWNER OF JAPAN'S LARGEST LUXURY OCEAN LINER "THE MADLER"?


AND I UNDERSTAND THAT MY SON IS IN YOUR CARE.
78
SAKURAGI SPEAKING
I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR THE SUDDEN CALL AS I UNDERSTAND YOU ARE A VERY BUSY MAN.

81
79
YOUR SON?
HM? KATAGIRI
80
82
THAT DOES NOT MATTER.
I SEE CAPTAIN KATAGIRI IS YOUR...
84
IT REMINDED ME OF WHAT HE SAID LONG AGO.
83
ALTHOUGH I DID SEE HIM TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN QUITE A WHILE.

85
"WE'LL NEED AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN TIMES OF CRISIS."
"FATHER, YOU SHOULD GIVE OUR COUNTRY YOUR SHIPS WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY."
86
87
GIVE YOUR SHIPS TO THE COUNTRY !?
I HAVE JUST CONFIRMED WITH MR YOKOUCHI, THE DIRECTOR OF TOZAI OCEAN LINERS, THAT HE WILL HIRE MY EMPLOYEES
OUR COMPANY OWNS THREE 10,000-TON TRANSPORT VESSELS AND SEVENTEEN PASSENGER LINERS.
I WILL, OF COURSE, PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MINIMUM PERSONNEL
88


I AM AN OLD MAN, MR PRIME MINISTER.
AND MY SON IS *NOT* GOING TO TAKE OVER THIS BUSINESS
90

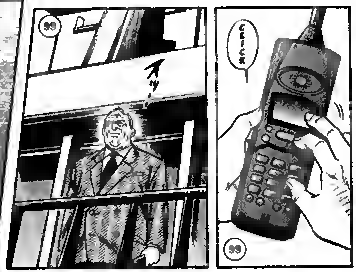
89
ARE... ARE YOU *SERIOUS* ABOUT THIS!?

91
MY SON IS RISKING HIS *OWN LIFE* FOR HIS BELIEFS.
WHAT CAN A FATHER DO FOR A SON LIKE THAT?

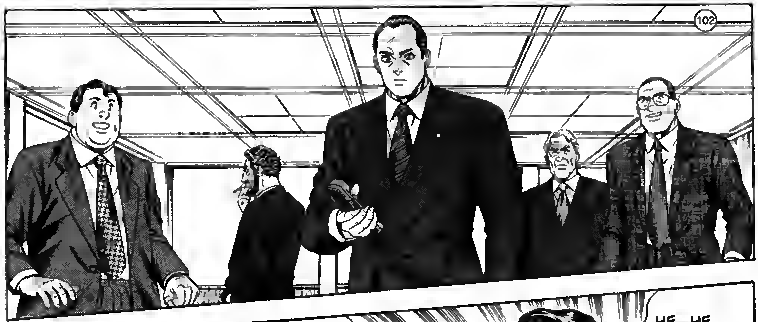
93
THIS IS THE ONLY THING I CAN DO AFTER EIGHTY-EIGHT YEARS OF MY LIFE. PLEASE ACCEPT MY OFFER.
NINETEEN OF THE SHIPS HAVE ALREADY LEFT SHIKOKU AND WILL ARRIVE AT SASEBO PORT TOMORROW MORNING.
92

I CAN ONLY ADMIRE YOUR GENEROSITY.
I AM AT A LOSS FOR WORDS FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFER.
95
94
HOW ABOUT IT, MR PRIME MINISTER?
MR. PRIME MINISTER! I HAVE ONLY ONE WISH.
PLEASE SAVE AS MANY PEOPLE... AS MANY LIVES AS POSSIBLE.
MY SON LOST THREE OF HIS MEN.. MR. SAKURAGI, HOW MANY JAPANESE CAN YOU SAVE?
96
97

THIS IS WHAT YOU WISHED FOR...
101


99
99
CHECK

TORU ...
100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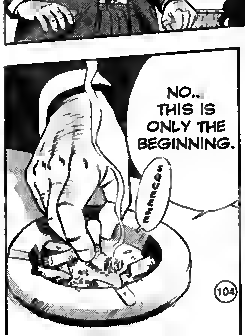

NO.. THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
MUNCH
104

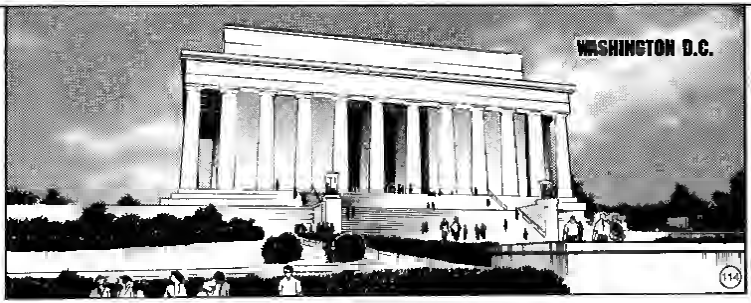
AND GREAT TIMING, TOO!!
HE..HE IS THE PRIDE OF THIS NATION !
103

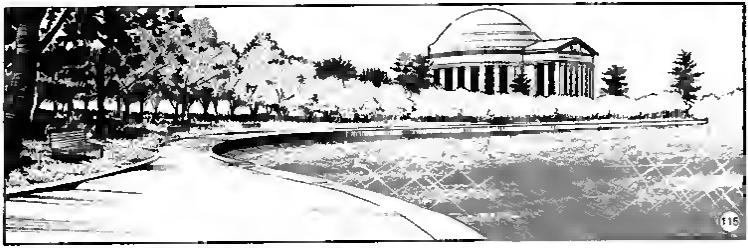
105
WE MAY HAVE SECURED A WAY
HOWEVER, EVEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RESCUING JAPANESE PEOPLE, ONCE WE START THIS MISSION AS A STATE..
...
IT WILL INVOLVE OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LANDING IN KOREA!
PRIME MINISTER! THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT YOU HAVE TO DO!
JAPAN'S NEW "SECURITY TREATY"!
106

107
ALL RIGHT! A NEW SECURITY TREATY IT IS.

PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
108
109
110
111
112
113


WASHINGTON D.C.
114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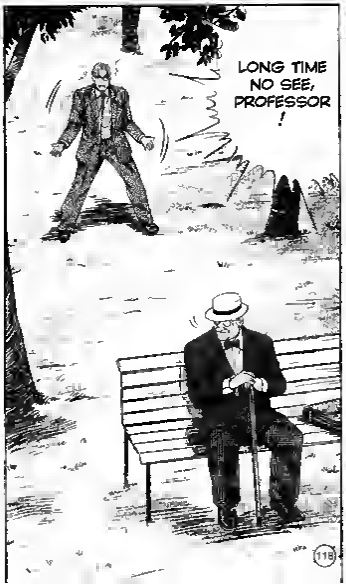
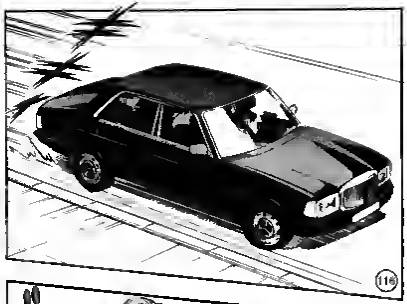
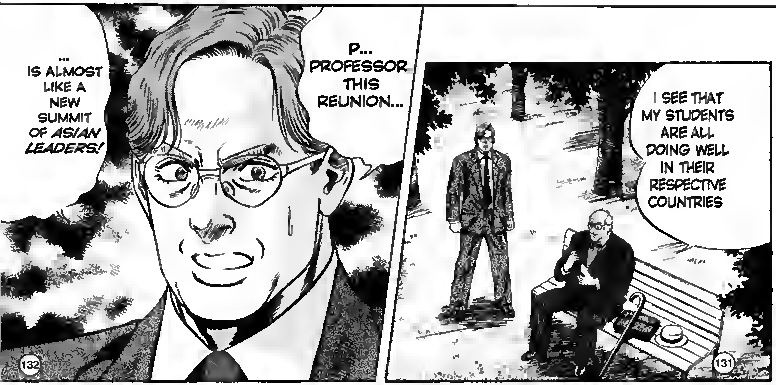

LONG TIME NO SEE, PROFESSOR !
118


116

117

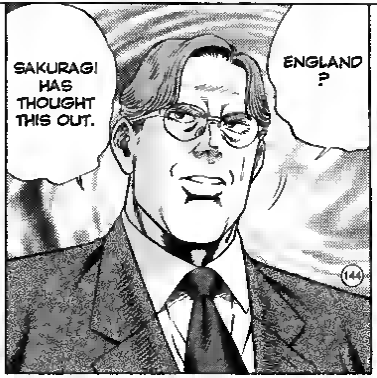
YOU SHOULD'VE COME TO THE WHITE HOUSE IF YOU'RE IN TOWN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING *HERE?*
120
118
HELLO! SORRY TO CALL YOU UP LIKE THIS.
FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF STANFORD UNIVERSITY: NICHOLAS SUTHERLAND
UH...WELL, THANK YOU, SIR!
MR. SPIDER! I MUST FIRST CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE
AS YOUR FORMER TEACHER, I AM *VERY PROUD* OF YOU.
121
SAKURAGI CALLED.
HE WANTS A REUNION.
124
123
OH?
I CAME TO TALK TO A FORMER STUDENT, JEFFERSON SPIDER.
BUT I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.
122

SMIRK
127
JACKIE HOI, PRESIDENT OF NEW HONG KONG BANK.
128
WHO *ELSE* WILL BE THERE?
126
SAKURAGI? A *REUNION*?
125
130
CHARA SIMON, PROFESSOR OF INDONESIA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
JAY DOROTHY, MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AUSTRALIA
MIKE KAMO, PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND
JERRY LU, MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF SINGAPORE
RON ROLAN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA
AND SAKURAGI KENICHIRO, PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN!
SAWADIE, CROWN PRINCE OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND
GAO LIN-ANG, CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO THE U S
129


P... PROFESSOR THIS REUNION...
... IS ALMOST LIKE A NEW SUMMIT OF ASIAN LEADERS!
I SEE THAT MY STUDENTS ARE ALL DOING WELL IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES
131
132

134
JEFFERSON, DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?
THAT'S...
"THE POSSIBILITIES OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY WITHIN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC RIM"
The Possibilities of Collective Security within Asia and the Pacific Rim
Political Science 405
Professor N Sutherland
Faculty of Political Science
Kenichiro Sakuragi
THAT'S THE PAPER SAKURAGI SUBMITTED FOR YOUR CLASS.
135
133
136

136
IT WAS A GREAT PAPER AND WHAT I SIMULATED WITH ALL OF YOU AT THAT TIME IS ABOUT TO BECOME REALITY
I'LL BE ABLE TO CONFIRM IF MY JUDGMENT WAS CORRECT
137
AND YOU GRADED THAT PAPER AN "A"
140
I SEE
AND I CAN ALSO SEE WHY YOU WERE INVITED
139
142
THAT'S RIGHT!
...WILL ALSO BE ATTENDED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IT MEANS THAT THIS LITTLE REUNION
141

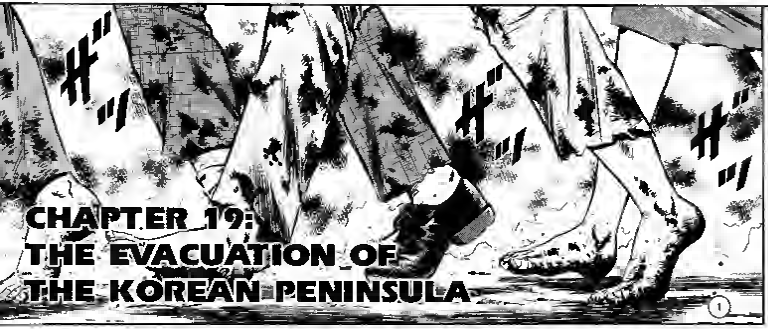

SAKURAGI HAS THOUGHT THIS OUT.
ENGLAND ?
144

143
OH, AND I JUST RECEIVED A CALL
MR IAN MAJOR, THE PRIME MINISTER OF ENGLAND, WILL ALSO ATTEND.

I KNEW MANY PRIME MINISTERS WHO TREMBLED IF I SIMPLY RAISED MY VOICE.
The Possibility of Collective Security within Asia and the Pacific Rim
145
THE PRIME MINISTERS OF JAPAN HAD PROBLEMS SIMPLY DEALING WITH WHAT THE U.S. ASKED THEM TO DO
JAPAN HAS CHANGED! WHEN I WAS SECRETARY OF STATE.

146
BUT OUR SAKURAGI IS DIFFERENT !
HE IS ATTEMPTING JAPAN'S FIRST REAL INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMACY!

THE CONDITION FOR INDEPENDENCE
FROM AMERICA
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN
日本国初代大統領・桜木徹一郎
TM


CHAPTER 19:
THE EVACUATION OF
THE KOREAN PENINSULA
1

2

부산
Pusan
3
4

# CHAPTER 19: THE EVACUATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA

7
SOUTH KOREA,
PUSAN REFUGEE CAMP
8
10
9

IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE WE GOT HERE
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US?
12
11
I... I WANT TO GO BACK TO JAPAN!
13
HEY, FOOD AID IS HERE!
THE KOREAN VOLUNTEER GROUPS ARE HERE!
14
HERE YOU GO!
WE KNOW IT'S NOT ENOUGH, BUT YOU HAVE TO KEEP UP YOUR STRENGTH!
16
15

20
I'M SURE YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT YOURSELVES.
I'M VERY GRATEFUL THAT YOU WOULD STILL HELP US JAPANESE, EVEN AFTER THE WAR
18
HUH ?
17
HERE YOU GO!
19
23
THANK YOU.
22
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WE NEED TO HELP ONE ANOTHER!
21
THE YOUNGER GENERATION DOESN'T HAVE THE DARK MEMORIES OF THE WAR OUR GENERATION HAS.

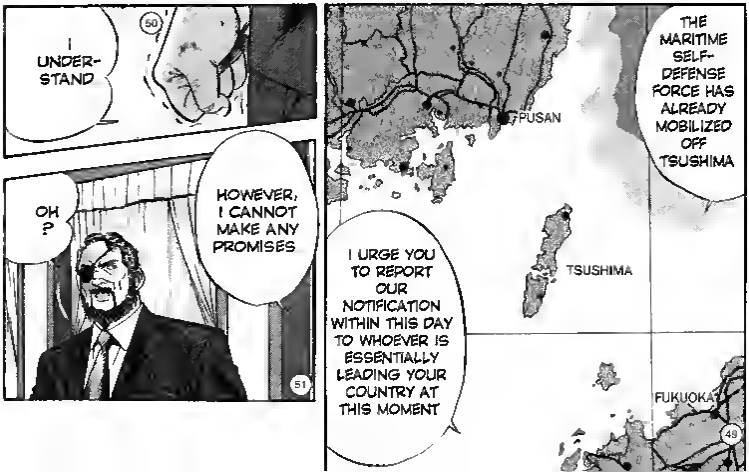
JAPANESE STOCK PRICES HAVE PLUMMETED DUE TO THE TERMINATION OF THE U.S.-JAPAN SECURITY TREATY.
"JAPAN, THE ECONOMIC GIANT" IS NOW A THING OF THE PAST
26
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICIAL RESIDENCE
24
JAPANESE CITIZENS ARE IN DIRE STRAITS BOTH HERE AND ABROAD.
PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE
首席補佐官室
25
MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT.
THE SEA OF JAPAN SWARMS WITH BOTH FUGITIVES AND PIRATES
27
MEANWHILE, THE SITUATION IS WORSE IN KOREA WHERE MANY JAPANESE ARE STILL TRAPPED.
29
JAPAN'S FATE WILL BE DECIDED TODAY ELECTION DAY FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS ELECTION FOR BOTH HOUSES OF GOVERNMENT.
CAN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OVERCOME THESE CRISES?
28

31
CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN: ZHANG YU SHI
30
KNOCK KNOCK
COME IN!
32
THANK YOU FOR COMING BY TODAY.
MY PLEASURE! I HAD HOPED TO VISIT EARLIER
33
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS PRIME MINISTER'S AIDE.
I MUST SAY YOU'LL BE ONE TOUGH MAN TO NEGOTIATE WITH HA HA...
34
35
LET'S GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT, MR AMBASSADOR
YES?

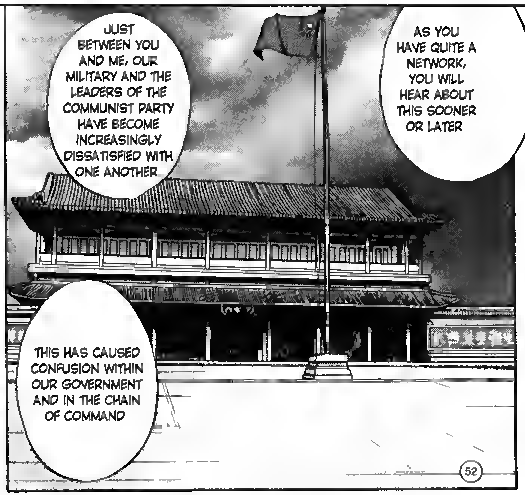
THE LAPSE OF THE SECURITY TREATY WITH THE U.S MEANS THAT WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESCUE THEM OURSELVES.
DUE TO THE KOREAN CRISIS, MORE THAN 10,000 JAPANESE REFUGEES HAVE GATHERED NEAR THE EMERGENCY HAVEN OF PUSAN.
TAEGU
PUSAN
KWANGJU
36
PRIME MINISTER SAKURAGI WISHES TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC STATEMENT REGARDING KOREA.
36
WHICH IS?
37
THIS IS A NOTIFICATION TO YOUR COUNTRY THAT WE WILL LAND ON THE SHORES OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA!
THEREFORE, THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WILL DISPATCH THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE!
WE WILL, OF COURSE, LIMIT OURSELVES TO RESCUING THE JAPANESE PEOPLE LEFT ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA.
39

41
MR. KUJIRAI! AS A PERSON WELL-VERSED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, YOU SURELY REALIZE THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS
AN ARMED GROUP SIMPLY DOESN'T LAND ON FOREIGN SHORES, EVEN TO RESCUE PEOPLE!
40
LAND ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA ?
42
OF COURSE! BUT A NATION EXISTS FOR ITS PEOPLE
AND OUR NATION BELIEVES THAT IT'S THE GOVERNMENT'S DUTY TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF ALL OF ITS CITIZENS WHEREVER THEY MAY BE
43
ERR
WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED THE CONSENT OF THE U.S AND KOREA
BUT NOT OF CHINA
TAP TAP
44
DESPITE OUR NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH ANYONE IN BEIJING.
I WONDER WHY THAT IS?
45

47
...IS SOMETHING HAPPENING WITHIN CHINA?
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S RATHER ODD THAT WE CAN'T REACH ANYONE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
OR...
48
49


50
I UNDER-STAND
HOWEVER, I CANNOT MAKE ANY PROMISES
OH ?
51
THE MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE HAS ALREADY MOBILIZED OFF TSUSHIMA
PUSAN
TSUSHIMA
I URGE YOU TO REPORT OUR NOTIFICATION WITHIN THIS DAY TO WHOEVER IS ESSENTIALLY LEADING YOUR COUNTRY AT THIS MOMENT
FUKUOKA
49

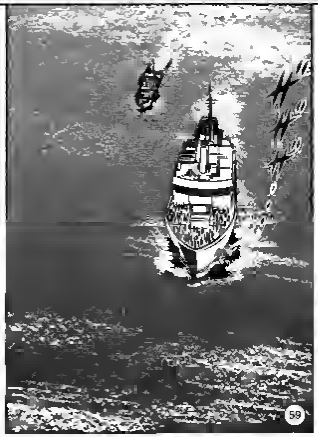
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY POSITION
IN FACT, I'VE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM *DIFFERENT* CHANNELS TO RETURN TO CHINA
53


JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, OUR MILITARY AND THE LEADERS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY DISSATISFIED WITH ONE ANOTHER
AS YOU HAVE QUITE A NETWORK, YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT THIS SOONER OR LATER
THIS HAS CAUSED CONFUSION WITHIN OUR GOVERNMENT AND IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND
52

AS AN ASIAN FRIEND, I WISH JAPAN THE VERY BEST
55
THIS MAY BE THE *LAST TIME* I EVER SEE YOU

54
I SEE.

57
56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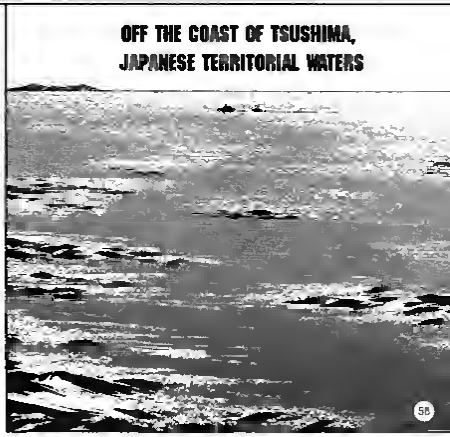
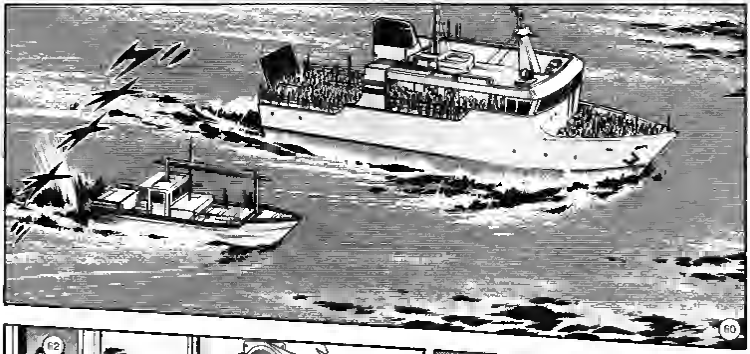
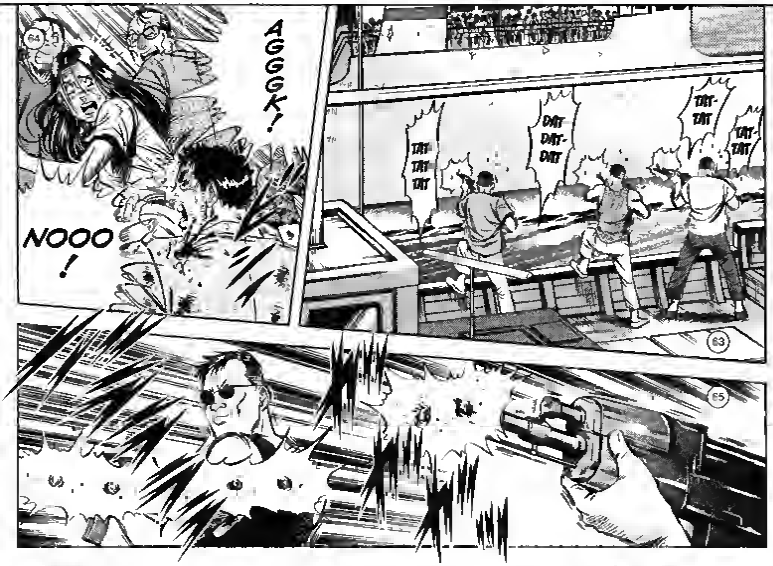

OFF THE COAST OF TSUSHIMA,
JAPANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS
58


60

62
THEY HAVE GUNS!
QUICK! GET DOWN!

CHECK
61


AGGGK!
NOOO!
TAT-TAT-TAT
DAT-DAT-DAT
TAT-TAT
TAT-TAT
64
63
65

ARE YOU KIDDING? IF WE LET THEM ON, THEY'LL KILL US ALL!
MOMMY, I'M SCARED!!
69
THIS IS THE FASTEST WE CAN GO! THEIR BOAT IS PROBABLY REVAMPED. WE CAN'T OUTRUN THEM!
COME ON! GO FASTER!
68
MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP THE BOAT?
68
DAMN! WE GOT THIS FAR. FINALLY ESCAPING FROM THE KOREAN PENINSULA...
67

!
TAT TAT
TAT TAT
TAT TAT
AIM FOR THE BRIDGE!
HM ?
70
71
72
73
74

77
BANG
78
WE'RE JAPANESE! WE'VE ESCAPED FROM KOREA!
PLEASE HELP US!
TO THE TWO VESSELS BELOW! YOU ARE IN JAPANESE TERRITORIAL WATERS.
75
BOTH VESSELS MUST STATE THEIR NATIONALITY
76
AAAGHH !!
79
81
HUMPH !
82
TO THE FISHING BOAT! CEASE FIRING IMMEDIATELY AND REPORT YOUR NATIONALITY !
80

!?
AGH!

WE WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE EMERGENCY MEASURES!
WE REPEAT, IF YOU CONTINUE TO ENGAGE IN AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR, WE WILL CONSIDER THIS AS AN ACT OF PIRACY!
87
90
IGNORE THEM, C'MON!
P.3
THEY'LL ONLY FIRE WARNING SHOTS.
THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHIN' TO US!
88
DAMN THEM. THEY'RE ONLY TRYING TO SCARE US
92
"THIS IS HEADQUARTERS..."
91
TAT TAT TAT
"AAAG-HH! HELP!"
TAT TAT TAT

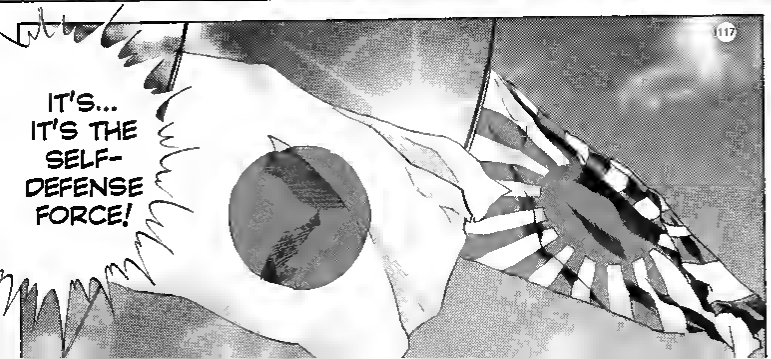
94
ROGER
!
93
96
95
!
98
AAAGH!
99
97

?
101
Click!
102
100
103
WHAT?
104

MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED!
THIS IS SPARROW. TARGET DESTROYED AT 14:38 HOURS!

WE CAN GO HOME TO JAPAN!
WE'RE SAVED!
107
DID YOU SEE THAT?
108
109
HUH?
111
HEY!
112
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
110
OVER THERE!
113

173
176
!!
114


IT'S... IT'S THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE!
117

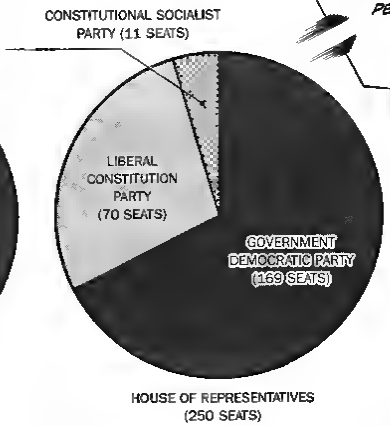
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
LOOK!
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?
115
116

BEGIN RESCUE OPERATIONS IMMEDIATELY!
119
116
JAPAN HAS FINALLY COME FOR US!
THEY'VE COME FOR US!
120
BUZZ BUZZ
THE OUTCOME HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY DECIDED EVEN THOUGH THE POLLS CLOSE AT 20:00
BUZZ BUZZ
BUZZ BUZZ
UP FOR GRABS ARE 250 LOWER HOUSE AND 100 UPPER HOUSE SEATS
122
サロンパス
DREAMS COME TRUE
VOTER TURNOUT HAS ALREADY EXCEEDED 80% DUE TO HEAVY ONLINE VOTING
AND NOW A REPORT ON THE GENERAL ELECTION, THE FOCUS OF WHICH IS CRISIS MANAGEMENT
121

AND THIS IS THE RESPONSE OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE!

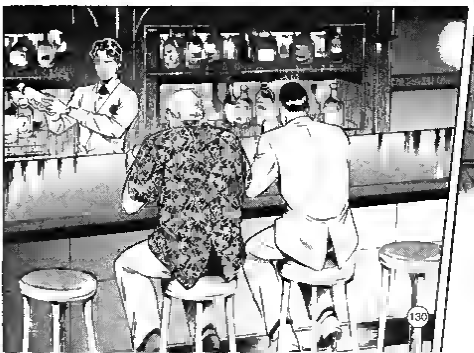
## SIMULTANEOUS ELECTION FOR BOTH HOUSES: ELECTION RETURNS

CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY (5 SEATS)
LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY (26 SEATS)
GOVERNMENT DEMOCRATIC PARTY (69 SEATS)
HOUSE OF COUNCILORS (100 SEATS)


CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY (11 SEATS)
LIBERAL CONSTITUTION PARTY (70 SEATS)
GOVERNMENT DEMOCRATIC PARTY (169 SEATS)
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (250 SEATS)

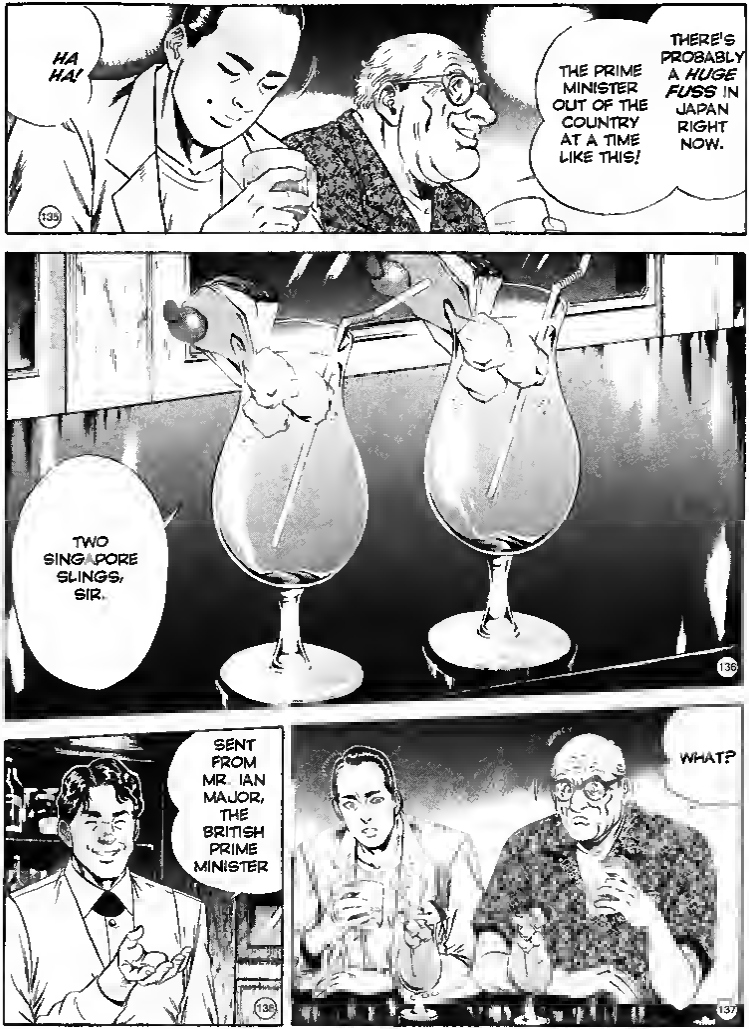
SINGAPORE
127

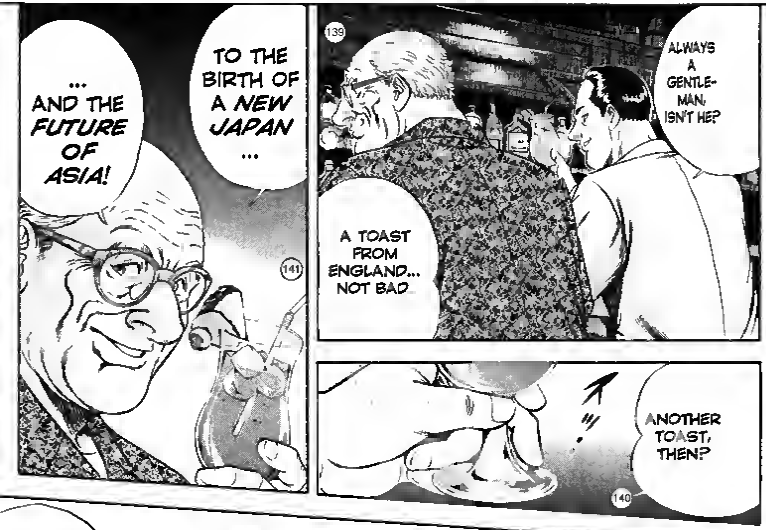
129


130

RAFFLES HOTEL
128

133
CONGRATULATIONS!
NOW, THE LATEST IN JAPAN SUPPORTERS OF PRIME MINISTER SAKURAGI THE GOVERNMENT DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAVE WON A LANDSLIDE VICTORY IN TODAY'S ELECTION
THIS RESULT HAS PROVEN THAT PRIME MINISTER SAKURAGI HAS THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT, BOTH IN NAME AND IN FACT
131
132
134
THANK YOU, PROFESSOR!


HA HA!
135
THE PRIME MINISTER OUT OF THE COUNTRY AT A TIME LIKE THIS!
THERE'S PROBABLY A *HUGE FUSS* IN JAPAN RIGHT NOW.
TWO SINGAPORE SLINGS, SIR.
136
SENT FROM MR. IAN MAJOR, THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
138
WHAT?
137


TO THE BIRTH OF A NEW JAPAN ...
... AND THE FUTURE OF ASIA!
141
139
ALWAYS A GENTLE-MAN, ISN'T HE?
A TOAST FROM ENGLAND... NOT BAD
ANOTHER TOAST, THEN?
140

I'D RATHER TOAST TO YOUR HEALTH, PROFESSOR.
CHEERS!
142
THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF JAPAN™ VOLUME 3 END

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